



to 61,590

Tomorrow

Going over
Jenny MacArthur at the Royal International Horse Show

Going under
David Walker reports the emergency meeting of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities to debate the abolition of the Metropolitan counties

Going West
Christopher Walker meets the Israelis on the West Bank

Going free
Veronica Grocock on the trauma of a shoplifting charge in the family

Coming out
Clifford Webb greets Ford's latest model, the Orion, making its debut... two years late

Telecom's profit dips to £365m

British Telecom may increase telephone charges following the announcement that its profits fell to £365m for 1982-83 from £458m the year before. A decision to write off assets more quickly depressed the results, which took experts by surprise.

Gilmour presses case for PR

Sir Ian Gilmour, a former Conservative Cabinet minister, has backed the new Campaign for Fair Votes, which seeks the introduction of proportional representation. He said the general election result was indefensible.

Parole hint

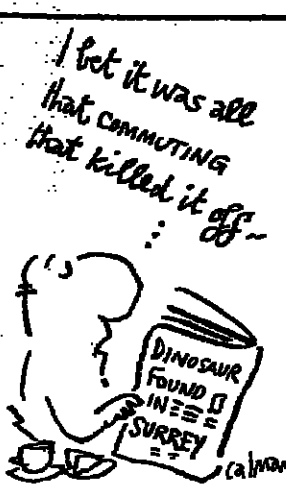
The Home Secretary has hinted at a change in the parole system to allow the earlier release of some short-term prisoners.

Defence deal

The Indian Navy has ordered Sea King helicopters equipped with Sea Eagle anti-ship missiles from Britain in a deal which may ultimately be worth more than £200m.

Air laws review

New flying regulations for helicopters are being considered by the Civil Aviation Authority in the aftermath of the Scilly Isles helicopter crash.



Polish doubts

Poland moved nearer to lifting martial law when Parliament approved changes to the constitution.

Holders out

Surrey, the holders of the NatWest Trophy, lost to Warwickshire by nine wickets in the second round of the competition. There were also wins for Hampshire, Somerset, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire, Sussex, Middlesex and Kent.

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Letters: On parole limits, from Lord Windlesham; Israel's economy, from Mr Y. Plesner; Hawaii telescope, from Professor H. A. Gebbie

Leading articles: US and Central America; race

Features, pages 8, 10

Local democracy in danger; A new boost for the astronaut who would be president; Sweet talk on the family front; The Times Profile: Sebastian Coe

Books, page 9

Anthony Quinton reviews the biography of M. R. James; Fiona MacCarthy on British food; William Douglas-Horne on Lord Home; Isabel Raphael on Clive James; Tom Hutchinson on science fiction; Contran Goulden on sightseeing

Obituary, page 12

Professor Alan Gledhill, Mr Clifford Rose

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CBI presses for more cuts in jobs and spending

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The Confederation of British Industry last night called for extra cuts in state spending and the loss of 360,000 jobs in public services in the coming year to avert what business leaders believe is the impending collapse of Britain's free enterprise system.

Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI director, giving clear support to the hard line being adopted by Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, said that spending by government departments, town halls and the health service must be held down.

"If ministers fail to act, there is a real danger that taxation will rise. That would bring the recovery in trade and industry to an end."

Sir Terence, speaking on the eve of today's Cabinet meeting at which Mr Lawson is expected to dangle the carrot of tax cuts in front of colleagues if they agree to curb spending, added: "The state is swallowing us up; something has got to be done."

Members of the CBI's policy-making council yesterday expressed disquiet at the £5,000m that government departments want to spend in addition to published plans. Sir Terence said the CBI did not disagree with suggestions that this could lead to income tax rising to 45p in the pound.

"A halt in the upward trend in public spending is needed now. The future of free enterprise in this country is at stake. The public should be aware of the implications."

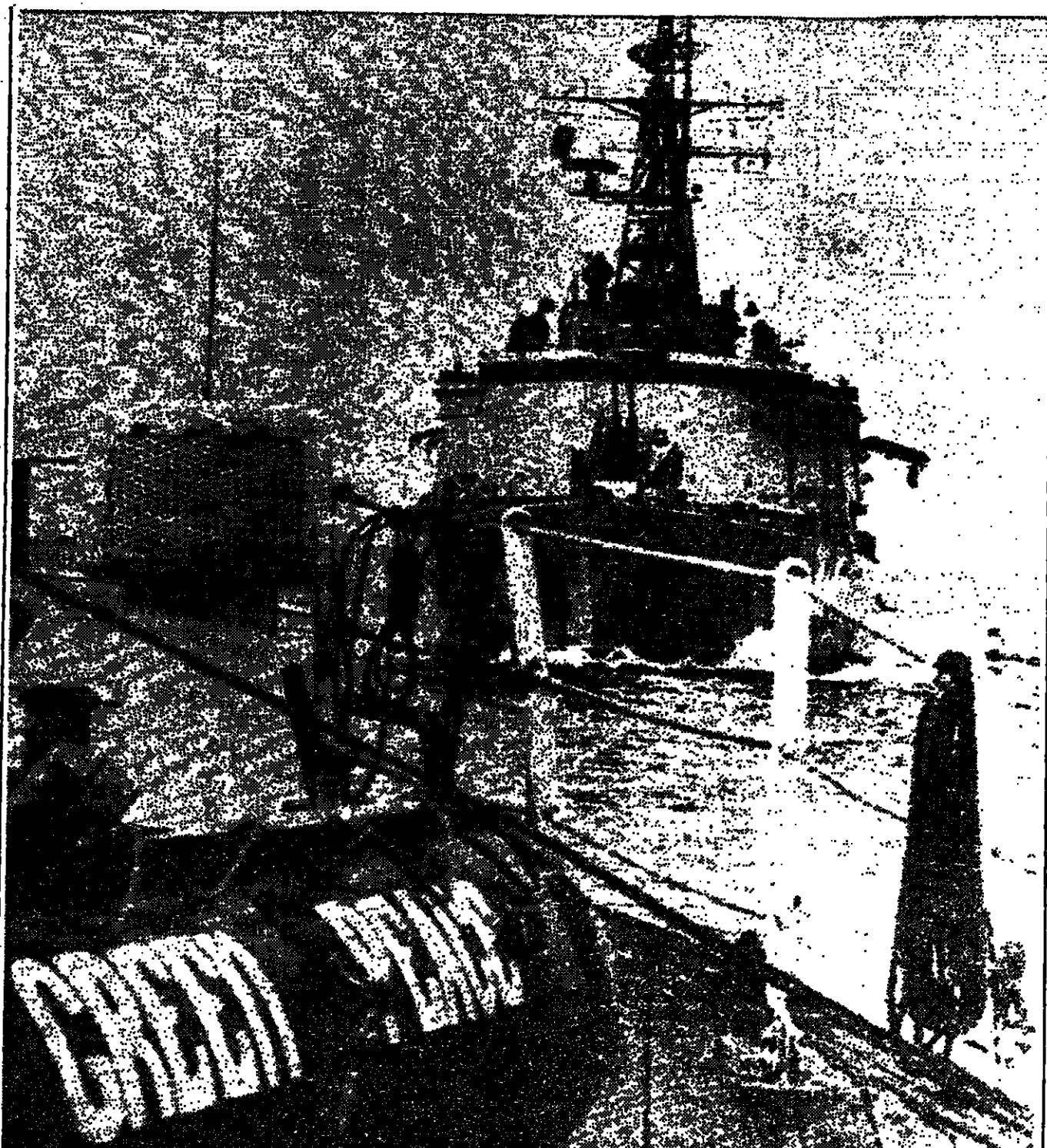
In the last three years, government spending's share of the nation's total output had risen from 41 to 44 per cent. On unchanged policies, with Britain experiencing low growth and with North Sea oil revenues starting to decline, the share could rise to 49 per cent by the end of the decade "with enormous implications for income tax and VAT."

The private sector had borne the brunt of the recession and made significant cuts in manpower and substantial improvements in productivity. "Some of us in industry have had to do it year on year on year but we have not had a similar response from the public sector and this is chewing us up. If we don't get these cuts, the country will definitely be in decline."

A new CBI policy paper, approved by the council, which is being sent to Mr Peter Rees, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, outlines the job cuts industry wants to see in the public services.

On present figures they would include 47,000 Civil Service redundancies in 1984-85, 41,000 in teaching, 90,000 in housing, 19,000 in the police.

Continued on back page, col 6



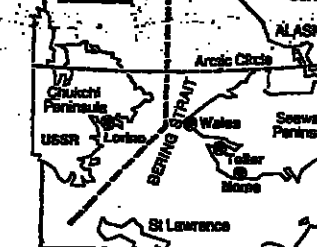
Hot pursuit: A Soviet gunboat bears down menacingly on the Rainbow Warrior in the Bering Strait.

Greenpeace releases pictures

Concern for captured seven

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The seven Greenpeace activists who were captured by the Soviet Union in the Bering Strait last night, Greenpeace said, had been taken to a remote area of the country. The activists, who were on the Rainbow Warrior, were taken aboard a Soviet ship and held in a remote area of the country. The activists, who were on the Rainbow Warrior, were taken aboard a Soviet ship and held in a remote area of the country.



long record of fighting whaling, had already announced "a major confrontation at sea against Russia".

The Soviet Union, Japan, Norway and Peru continue to hunt whales in spite of last year's 25-7 vote by the International Whaling Commission to phase out all commercial whaling. Greenpeace was determined to put pressure on these countries.

Last December, Rainbow Warrior confronted a Peruvian whaler and protesters boarded it and chained themselves to the harpoon.

In the latest skirmish, a Greenpeace team crossed the Bering Strait, the narrow strip which separates Russia from the United States. Six people went ashore from Rainbow Warrior at Lorino whaling station on the Chukotka peninsula, to distribute leaflets and

its occupant, who had been taken photographs, had just been captured by the Russians, plucked from the boat by helicopter.

Last night, Greenpeace said it was very concerned about the seven men and women arrested. The Soviet Government would only say that something had occurred in the Bering Strait and that seven people had been detained.

Greenpeace, which has a

Hunt for suspected double child killer put under one officer

A senior police officer is to take overall control of the hunt for a suspected double child killer. The inquiry is into the murders of Susan Maxwell, aged 11, and Caroline Hogg, aged five. The police believe that the murderer may be a driver or sales representative.

Strong links emerged last night between the two killings and 13 officers from Leicestershire, Northumbria, Lothian and Borders and Staffordshire drew up plans to coordinate the investigation.

Their decision to appoint an overall controller is a spin-off from the Yorkshire Ripper inquiry, which attacked glaring

errors of communication and man management between forces.

The body of Caroline Hogg, an Edinburgh schoolgirl, was found in a ditch in Leicestershire on Monday, 11 days after she disappeared.

Susan Maxwell vanished from her home in Northumbria 12 months ago. Her body was discovered two weeks later near Uttoxeter, Staffordshire.

Mr Bill Sutherland, Lothian and Borders chief constable, said last night: "We have established that there are certain similarities and because of that we have decided to

appoint one officer in charge of all inquiries." The links are: The girls lived about 40 miles apart. Susan in Cornhill-on-Tweed, which is on the main route to Caroline's home at Portobello, Edinburgh.

Their bodies were found 30 miles apart near main north-south roads from the Scottish borders to the Midlands.

Susan was discovered near a lay-by on the A518, Caroline on the A444 between Wyrcross and Sibson roads joined by a section of the A50.

Both girls vanished on Friday evenings in July and country shows and fairs were going on near their homes.

70 Tories rebel on MPs' pay

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government's attempt to make an example of MPs in its campaign to restrain public sector pay, failed early yesterday when 70 Conservative backbenchers voted with the Opposition.

The Commons insisted by eight votes, against government advice, on a formula that will link their pay on January 1, 1988, with that of civil servants now earning £18,500.

They will have an immediate increase in salary of £798, backdated to June 13, with four equal increments between next January 1 and January 1, 1987, bringing their salary from £14,510 to £18,500.

That the Government was ready to accept, but the effect of yesterday's vote will be to give MPs a further adjustment for inflation on January 1, 1988, at about the time an election must be held.

The amount would depend on the rate of inflation and the success of the Civil Service unions in negotiating increases to match it, but five annual increments of 4 per cent, for example, would lift an MP's salary by about £4,000 at an electoral sensitive time.

The immediate rise represents about 3½ per cent, against the immediate 30.9 per cent rise which the top salaries review board recommended and which most Labour MPs and many Conservatives thought should be paid.

Ministers yesterday made the most of their success in postponing for four and a half years a large political embarrassment.

But the cost in the goodwill of their backbench supporters has been heavy. Young and old Conservatives, from left and right of the party, were yesterday unanimous in their complaints of incompetence and insensitivity on the part of ministers.

The mildest charge is that the Cabinet misjudged the party by producing a formula which they should have known was unacceptable.

The angriest Conservatives say that the Cabinet's first offer, which was of a net 1.7 per cent increase, was intended to humiliate them.

The voting in the small hours yesterday may not dispose of the matter. Although the Government undertook to carry out the will of the Commons, many Conservative rebels dislike the arrangements now agreed almost as much as the Government does, though for different reasons.

Some dislike the idea of linkage to the Civil Service, others object to the scale of allowances for secretarial help and for car mileage, which is to be cut. What united them yesterday was their impatience with their leaders.

Parliamentary report, page 4

A record \$10.2m yearling

Lexington, (Reuters) - Sheikh Mohammed Al-Maktoum of Dubai paid a world record \$10.2m for a colt sired by Northern Dancer out of My Bupers, on the second and final day of the 40th annual Keeneland July selected yearling sale.

The purchase by the Sheikh's Aston Upthorpe Stud farm in Berkshire shattered the previous record of £4.25m. The Northern Dancer colt, sold by Don Johnson's Crescent Farm of Lexington, is out of a mare who never won but is the dam of the American sprint champion My Juliet.

The underbidder was Joss Collins, the English bloodstock agent, representing a group that included Robert Sangster and Stavros Niarchos.

During the sale, 301 yearlings were sold for a record \$150.9m.

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Israel decides to pull back

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

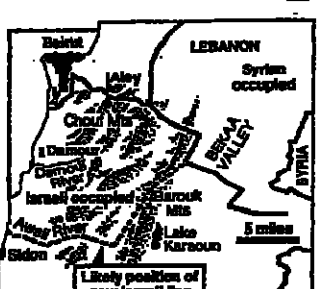
In the face of Syria's flat refusal to budge from Lebanon, the Israeli Cabinet met in emergency session yesterday and voted unanimously in favour of a partial withdrawal of its 30,000 occupying troops in an effort to cut its increasing casualty toll.

Although no details of the plan were disclosed after the meeting, whose proceedings were confidential, it is expected that the Israelis will make a staged withdrawal over the next three months to a new front line running parallel to the Awali river, just north of the port city of Sidon.

The exact timing and extent of the redeployment will be decided by a powerful triumvirate consisting of Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister.

They will be working from a detailed scheme drawn up by the Army's general staff.

According to military sources, up to one-third of



Israel's Army could be pulled out if the scheme is fully implemented by the start of the Lebanese winter in November. The step-by-step departure from the environs of Beirut and the perilous about mountains will be coordinated with the Americans and the Lebanese.

A recent statement by the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) concluded: "The Lebanese Army is probably capable today of safeguarding the order achieved between feuding sides (in those areas in which the IDF is presently deployed) should the IDF redeploy. The presence of the multinational force in any such area would probably

greatly help the Lebanese Army to maintain order."

Mr Samuel Lewis, the United States Ambassador, was briefed on the controversial vote yesterday and is due to return to Washington for discussions.

Israel is anxious that the vacuum left by its departure from forward positions should be quickly filled to prevent any strengthening in the hands of the Syrians or remaining guerrilla units.

It is understood that the Israelis have no intention of abandoning their present positions facing Syrians in eastern Lebanon, as they regard the closeness of their heavy artillery to Damascus as a lever which may eventually contribute to a Syrian change of heart. At the maximum, the 120 kilometre front line is expected to be shortened by only five to seven kilometres.

Despite the secrecy surrounding operational details, military analysts are convinced that Israel will maintain its monitoring posts on Lebanon's strategic Jabal Baruch mountain. They

US warships put pressure on Nicaragua

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States has dispatched an eight-ship carrier battle group to the Pacific coast of Central America in a demonstration of resolve aimed at the left-wing Government of Nicaragua.

President Reagan said that "we must not permit outsiders to threaten the United States. We must not permit dictators to ram communism down the throats of one Central American country after another."

The announcement was coupled with confirmation by the Pentagon of large-scale joint military exercises with Honduras next month, the second in six months. They will probably be held at least in part along the border with Nicaragua, as they were last February.

The battle group consists of the 60,000 ton aircraft carrier Ranger, a cruiser, three destroyers, a frigate, a tanker and a fast combat support ship.

Owen calls for British missile pact with Russia

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Dr David Owen urged the Government last night to prepare the way for a bilateral agreement between Britain and the Soviet Union on the number of nuclear warheads Britain would deploy.

Intervention in the Commons in the two-day debate on the defence estimates, the SDP leader said such an agreement would be an "essential reinforcement" of the START negotiations on strategic arms reductions between the United States and the Soviet Union the Americans would welcome.

The former Labour foreign secretary suggested that France, too, would find it much more acceptable to make a bilateral agreement with the Soviet Union. It was an appalling indictment of the present Government that since it had been in office no foreign secretary had been to Moscow.

Gilmour presses case for PR to end 'bizarre' poll results

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Sir Ian Gilmour, the former Conservative Cabinet minister, said yesterday that the result of the general election was "plainly indefensible" because of the low number of seats won by the Alliance.

Sir Ian was speaking at a London press conference to launch a group called the Campaign for Fair Votes, which seeks to introduce proportional representation. He said: "The present system, as long as there are three parties, is likely to lead to very bizarre results, which can't really be justified."

He said that those Conservative MPs who had "profited from that system" were unlikely to agree with his judgment of the result, and he added: "I got 60 per cent of the vote. I would have won under any system."

Sir Ian, MP for Chesham and Amersham, said in his election address that he believed in electoral reform, but yesterday's statement will be seen as further evidence of his dissatisfaction with his own party. His address made no mention of Mrs Margaret Thatcher and he made no claim of economic recovery.

The campaign, which will work on an "all-party, no-party basis", will appeal for a million signatures for a petition demanding a referendum on proportional representation.

Mr Roy Jenkins, the former leader of the Social Democrats who is a co-sponsor of the campaign, said: "We are not campaigning on the basis of Alliance grievance. We are

fighting for justice for British voters, and for a more rational, fair and stable system of democratic representation."

He said: "The present system is a sort of wild electric saw which can mutilate in any direction. This time it was the Alliance which suffered. In future, it could easily be one of the other parties."

Mr Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby and another co-sponsor, said: "We must bring pressure to bear on MPs of all parties to secure electoral justice."

The campaign literature states that among the many distortions produced by the electoral system, there were 15 counties in which Conservative representation was solid in spite of the fact that the Conservatives won only "little more than half the vote."

The counties were listed as Bedfordshire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent, Northamptonshire, Norfolk, Oxfordshire, Shropshire, Surrey, East and West Sussex, Warwickshire, and Wiltshire.

Mr Richard Holmes, the Liberal director of the campaign said that if the last election had been fought on a system of proportional representation the Alliance could have won 150 seats for their 7.7 million votes.

Labour 180 seats for their 8.4 million votes, with the remainder, 330 seats, going to the nationalist parties, the Ulster parties, and the Conservatives.

Magnet car takes a step up

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

An important step towards exploiting a world market that could earn Britain £100m was completed yesterday with the placing by crane of the first glassfibre and aluminium car on the elevated guideway linking Birmingham's new airport terminal and the National Exhibition Centre.

The guideway is about 680 yards long and will carry the cars, which have no wheels on the world's first commercial Maglev (magnetic levitation) system.

The project involves companies such as GEC, Brush Electrical, Metro Cammell and British Rail, and West Midlands County Council. It has received government backing because of its experimental nature. The cost so far has been £3.5m and it has taken 18 months to build.

It is due to begin operating next spring when the air terminal is completed. Each car will carry 50 people on the 90-second link between the airport and exhibition centre.

Officials said that, despite the complexity and advanced technology of the Maglev system, there had been no big problems.

Hospital to oust mother

By Richard Evans

A health authority yesterday started legal proceedings against a mother who is refusing to leave a hospital in protest at "appalling" living conditions at her one-room home.

Mrs Pauline Neal, aged 28, was formally discharged from Crawley Hospital, West Sussex, on July 1, four weeks after giving birth to her third child. She has refused to leave the hospital's maternity unit until the local council rehouse her and her family.

Mrs Neal, her unemployed husband and their two other children, aged ten and two, have been living in bed and breakfast accommodation provided by social services after leaving their council home last August, days before they were due to be evicted for £500 rent arrears.

She says the accommodation in Springfield Road, Crawley, is infested with rats, fleas and cockroaches and is unsuitable for a baby.

Yesterday Mid-Downs health authority served a writ on Mrs Neal. Health chiefs will apply in the High Court on Tuesday for a legal injunction against her remaining in hospital.

Honours for the comic, the brave and the speedy



Investiture smiles: Among those receiving their awards at an investiture at Buckingham Palace yesterday were Leo McKern, the Australian-born actor renowned for his television portrayal as

Rumpole of the Old Bailey. He received the Order of Australia from the Queen. The family of Police Constable Francis O'Neill, of the Metropolitan Police, who was stabbed to death in 1980,

received the Queen's Gallantry Medal that was posthumously awarded to him. With Mrs Kathleen O'Neill are her children, Scott, Pauline, Caroline and Brian. Daley Thompson, the

athlete, who was appointed MBE, said afterwards: "I can't remember what the Queen said to me but it's very nice to get the honour." Sir Rex Hunt, Civil Commissioner of the Falklands, who was made a

knight, attended the investiture after flying in from the islands. "The Queen said that she was happy things had settled down in the Falklands", Sir Rex said.

Urgent review for helicopter rules

By Rupert Morris

The Civil Aviation Authority is urgently considering new regulations for helicopters in the aftermath of the tragedy in the Scilly, helicopter companies have been unable to agree on a voluntary code of practice.

At the end of last year, the authority sent all helicopter operators a draft code of practice, but by June 30 they had failed to agree on a variety of highly technical matters.

Officials have now concluded that they will have to draw up their own regulations to present to Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Transport, later this year. The regulations will then be incorporated in the Air Navigation Order.

Likely to form part of any new regulations is a clause stipulating that helicopters of a certain type, such as the Sikorsky 61, which crashed at the weekend, should not fly when the cloud ceiling and visibility at the site of

departure, or forecast for the estimated time of landing at the destination, are less than 500 feet and 1,000 metres respectively.

Mr King will attach considerable importance to the regulations drafted by the authority because of growing concern about safety, not only in helicopters but in aircraft generally.

In the past few days several British Airways helicopter pilots have spoken to *The Times* about their worries in the light of increased commercial pressures in the North Sea.

They have insisted on remaining anonymous, saying they had been specifically told not to speak to the press. In the safety bulletin *Feedback*, in which pilots are able anonymously to report their own lapses, disclosures that two pilots on a North Atlantic flight fell asleep for 20 minutes, while another fell asleep while on autopilot.

Identity quest starts

From Craig Sefton, Penzance

Relatives of 17 of the 20 victims of the Sikorsky helicopter crash gathered in Penzance yesterday to identify the bodies recovered from the wrecked fuselage salvaged off St Mary's in the Isles of Scilly.

To spare the relatives, police hope to rely on photographs and dental records rather than visual identification.

The bodies of three of those killed in Saturday's crash have still not been recovered, although more wreckage, mainly personal items of the holiday-makers on board the aircraft, was found washed up on local beaches.

After the recovery on Tuesday of the fuselage from the seabed 200ft below, the bodies were taken by salvage vessel to Penzance and moved to the

West Cornwall hospital where Home Office pathologists have been establishing the cause of death.

At Penzance the bodies were transported ashore from the salvage vessel *Seaford* Clansman by the Mabel Alice, the new Penzance lifeboat, a reminder of other tragedy off the Cornish coast 18 months ago.

When 16 people, including eight lifeboatmen, were lost in a storm.

Six people, two of them weeping women, watched the sad landing at Penzance. Near by hundreds of holidaymakers lined the quayside in silence.

Mr Derrick Pepperell, the West Cornwall coroner, yesterday opened and then adjourned an inquest on the dead.

Sale room £18,360 for Yeats's mail to a lady

By Geraldine Norman Sale Room Correspondent

The record of the last passionate friendship in the life of W. B. Yeats, the Irish poet and playwright, did not make quite as much as Christie's had hoped yesterday. Nevertheless, Quarrich paid £18,360 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000) for the magnificent series of 123 letters to Dorothy (Lady George) Wellesley, which spanned the years 1935 to 1938.

Poetry is constantly discussed, composed and corrected between them, as is the theme of age and love, which was particularly pertinent to Yeats. He was to die in 1939 at the age of 74. "I heard a very cheerful story the other day", he writes. "A friend, whose brother had been medical adviser to the late Lord Kimberly, brought me the tale."

At the age of 88 Lord Kimberly got a stroke from drinking too much whiskey. He was carried to an hospital, unconscious and left in charge of a rather pretty nurse. She was first aware of his return to consciousness when he said "take off those clothes at once, young woman, and get into bed." He thought he was in a house of ill fame. He died that night.

And Li Po also died drunk. He tried to embrace a moon in the Yellow River.

Since I heard this story old age has lost half its terrors."

Most of the letters have been published, which may account for the lack of competitiveness in the bidding.

A snapshot of W. B. Yeats with Dorothy Wellesley, from the poet's correspondence, which was sold at Christie's.

Job gap widens for 'lost generation'

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Long-term unemployment among a "forgotten generation" is pointing to a wide gap in the provisions of the Manpower Services Commission.

More than 410,000 of those aged 18 to 25 have been out of work for more than a year, the commission's report for 1982/83 published yesterday says.

That represents nearly 45 per cent of the 940,000 jobless in the age group and the commission officials are worried that the Community Programme will not be able to cope.

The programme aims at providing full and part-time temporary jobs for people aged 25 and over who have been unemployed for at least 12 of the past 15 months and for those between 18 and 24 who have been out of work for at least six of the past nine months.

It is biased relatively towards the "forgotten" age group who will fill just more than half the 130,000 places expected by October. But Mr David Young, the commission chairman, and other commission officials, are thought to consider the provision seriously inadequate.

They are likely to press for more cash aid from the Government.

The report also discloses that only 25,000 places were provided under the Training for

Skills programme out of a target of 35,000.

The commissioners were disappointed with the support from industry which was reluctant to offer places because of the recession and because of pessimism about the need for skilled labour.

Recurrent spells of unemployment are a serious difficulty for a significant group among the unemployed, the report says. A study funded by the commission of those who became unemployed in May, 1980, shows that although 60 per cent had obtained a job after 10 months, over one third of these were without jobs again a year later.

Youth unemployment rates reached a peak of 25 per cent in October, 1982, in spite of the expansion of the Youth Opportunities Programme (YOP), without which, the report says, a further 750,000 young people might have been unemployed.

In a section of the report on the labour market, the compilers detected the first signs of a slow economic recovery in 1982, but the numbers employed continued to decline sharply, falling by 640,000, compared with a 750,000 drop in 1981.

More than 500,000 school leavers gained training and work experience through the Youth Opportunities Programme over the same period.

Shore call to reverse left shift

By Our Political Correspondent

Mr Peter Shore, one of the four contenders for the Labour leadership, said last night that Labour MPs had surrendered power to the left-dominated national executive in the run-up to the general election.

He said in a campaign speech to party members at the Commons: "A major redistribution of power has taken place within the Labour Party; one that has enhanced the powers of the national executive and diminished those of the Shadow Cabinet."

Mr Shore argued that the balance between executive and parliamentary party was the "critical issue" for the party's future. "The issue of who decides in the Labour Party has to be confronted openly."

From the end of next year, Labour MPs would be subjected to the process of mandatory reselection by their constituency parties.

Cadet hurt in lorry crash dies

Another army cadet died in hospital last night after the accident in which a lorry overturned at the Warcop army range in Cumbria as it brought 17 cadets back from a summer camp exercise.

He was Conrad Bard, aged 15, of Shirley Park, Croydon, who had suffered severe injuries in the crash in which James Lyall, aged 18, of Ravensbourne Avenue, Shortlands, Bromley, Kent, was killed.

Richard Bridges, aged 15, was seriously ill but "stable" in the intensive care unit of the Cumberland Infirmary in Carlisle.

Protest over rate controls

The Government was accused yesterday of using Scotland as a testing ground for the extensive powers it wants to introduce to control council rates. Scottish Labour councillors who are in London to lobby MPs who are to debate Scottish ratings powers today, claimed to be guinea pigs in an experiment by Mrs Margaret Thatcher that would, they said, end only with the destruction of local democracy.

Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, is to lay before Parliament orders allowing him to force the councils of Stirling, Lothian, Kirkcaldy and Glasgow to cut present spending and reduce rates.

Democracy at stake? - page 10

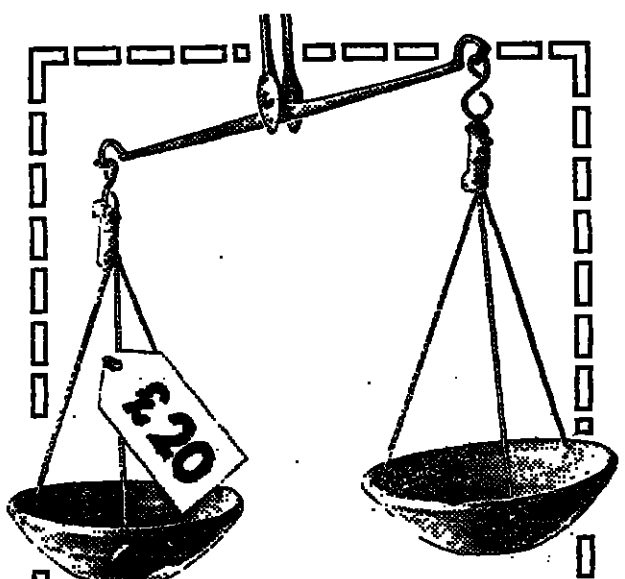
Beach blaze

Thirty firemen tackled a blaze at a three-storey building near the Ghost House on the south shore of Blackpool beach yesterday.

Correction

In a report on July 15 it was wrongly stated that Mr Leonard Matchan, owner of the island of Breckhow, was an atheist. In fact, as he has asked us to point out, he is an agnostic.

Overseas selling prices
Austria 20.28, Belgium 20.60, Bulgaria 19.75, Canada 22.20, Cyprus 19.75, Denmark 20.28, Finland 20.28, France 17.75, Germany 20.28, Greece 17.75, Hong Kong 17.75, India 17.75, Ireland 17.75, Italy 17.75, Japan 17.75, Korea 17.75, Luxembourg 17.75, Malaysia 17.75, Mexico 17.75, Netherlands 17.75, New Zealand 17.75, Norway 17.75, Portugal 17.75, Singapore 17.75, South Africa 17.75, Spain 17.75, Sweden 17.75, Switzerland 17.75, Taiwan 17.75, Thailand 17.75, Turkey 17.75, U.K. 17.75, U.S.A. 17.75, Venezuela 17.75



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Liberal hopes for Penrith

By Our Political Reporter

The Liberals claimed yesterday to be fast closing the gap on the Conservatives in the Parliamentary first by-election at Penrith and the Borders which was held by Mr William Whitelaw (now Lord Whitelaw) with a majority of more than 15,000 at the general election.

Their campaign organizer, Mr Andrew Ellis, issued figures based on interviews with 22 per cent of the electorate in England's largest constituency which, he said, put the Conservative candidate Mr David

Maclean on 49 per cent and Mr Michael Young, of the Alliance, on 37 per cent. Mr Lindsay Williams, the Labour candidate, was said to be on 12 per cent.

On a 50 per cent turnout, the figures, which were derided by the Conservative camp as a "spurious straw poll", would mean a cut in the Conservative majority to about 5,000.

Mr David Steel and Mr Roy Jenkins will be campaigning in the constituency on Friday and Mr Steel and Dr David Owen on Tuesday.

Public spending: 2

Taking the strain for annual tug of war

Public spending, like an ocean liner, takes an inordinate length of time to change course after the wheel has been turned. The demand by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, for immediate cuts of £500m in departmental programmes to bring public spending closer to plan this year, small though the sum may be in comparison with total spending of £119,600m, has thus caused much anguish as departments search for quick reductions.

The anguish is made more acute because the cuts are falling, not on the over-spending programmes themselves, which are demand-determined and hard to trim in the short-term, but on cash-limited programmes that are already tightly budgeted.

Treasury projections suggest that public spending may be racing about £3,000m ahead of plans but Mr Lawson is said to regard his July measures as adequate.

It would be virtually impossible for departments to find further savings this year, especially by the autumn when the financial year will be half way through. But Mr Lawson will also be hoping that his

Today's Cabinet meeting marks the start of the annual battle between the Treasury and spending ministries. For Mr Peter Rees (right), Chief Secretary to the Treasury, it is likely to prove unusually gruelling. But FRANCES WILLIAMS reports, the Treasury will probably achieve the cuts it wants.

preemptive strike will have prompted a search for economies from officials who may have taken too relaxed a view of spending discipline, making further action unnecessary.

The Chancellor had a second motive however. His cuts package was a working shot across the bows of spending ministers in the run-up to the annual public spending review of plans for next year and beyond.

Mr Lawson is losing no opportunity to impress on his Cabinet colleagues that without a tight rein on public spending there will be no room for significant tax cuts over the life of this Parliament. Departments have put in bids

totaling £5,000m more than the £126,400m envisaged for next year in February's public spending White Paper, which would have allowed for spending to stand still in real terms.

Mr Lawson, backed by the Prime Minister, will insist on sucking to published plans when the Cabinet meets to discuss the issue today.

The Government cannot rely on extra revenues boosted by economic recovery to come to the rescue, he will tell ministers. Other factors, such as lower inflation, or a higher pound which reduces the sterling value of North Sea oil taxes, could equally well depress revenues, he will argue, implying more spending cuts.

This is all part of the traditional battle of words before the public spending round begins in earnest. The Chancellor will not in fact be demanding a reduction in published plans. He will instead ask ministers to agree to leave intact next year's £3,000m contingency reserve.

That would normally be reduced to accommodate some essential extra bids. By leaving it untouched Mr Lawson gives himself some leeway to cut taxes in the next Budget or to keep state borrowing on track without raising taxes if revenues are less buoyant than expected.

But that means a gruelling slog ahead for Mr Peter Rees, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, when he begins the blow-by-blow negotiations with individual departments in September.

Some of the £5,000m excess will be lost without much ado as departments withdraw bids for new programmes and reduce the padding on others. But a hard core of necessary spending is certain to remain. Without the cushion of the contingency reserve, extra spending in one area must be financed by painful cuts in others.

Tomorrow: Defence spending

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Cuts are endangering standards in schools, inspectors say

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

It is in education that the Government is putting its money, and in some cases, the attempts of the Government to maintain standards. Government's school inspectors say in their annual report on local education in England published today.

The survey, which provides a short of what has happened in 1982 English education, says that while more of the schools are adequately funded, the nature of some of the inadequacies observed in individual institutions is such that they cannot be shrugged off.

Their verdict as to the state of the schools, who looked at 1,733 schools and 339 further education colleges, published a catalogue of where

educational provision is falling short. They say four local education authorities still give them cause for concern although one is a different council from last year.

The inspectors have again decided not to name names, in spite of strong pressure last year from the House of Commons select committee on education that they should do so. The four councils whose provision last year most worried HMI were Gateshead, Wiltshire, Somerset and Norfolk, the latter three named by *The Times*.

It is understood Somerset might be the council to have been promoted out of that list. Yesterday Mr Barry Taylor, its chief education officer, said he did not know because he had not yet received a letter from Miss Sheila Browne, the Senior

Chief Inspector, about how his authority had fared.

The survey shows that 22 authorities improved their educational provision last year and nine reduced it. Seven categories - teachers, non-teaching staff, teacher training, induction, advisory staff, premises and books and materials - were examined.

Unlike last year, educational provision was not on the whole getting worse. At the same time, the inspectors say that it "is characterized by levels of standards of resources, which are sometimes inadequate to maintain the status quo; by significant disparities between and within schools; and by schools in general being less than well placed to respond constructively and enthusiastically to the many calls for educational improvement and change that come from the education service itself and from parents and society".

Local authority advisory services were suffering from cuts (they were judged adequate in only 35 authorities) as was training, which was found to be inadequate in 38 authorities. Maintenance was inadequate and decoration shabby in one-quarter of primary schools. Primary schools frequently relied on parents, help, not only to buy extras but books and basic materials.

In secondary schools pupil-teacher ratios varied enormously and subjects available to students were restricted. HMI report on *Effects of Local Expenditure Policies on the Education Service in England in 1982* (Publications Despatch Centre, Department of Education and Science, Honeyport Lane, Canons Park, Summertown, Middlesex, HA7 1AZ, free).

Scouts cleared for aid

By Richard Dowden

The Inner London Education Authority is to release cash to Scouts which it froze months ago pending an investigation into sexism and racism in the movement. The area youth committees voted yesterday to the action committee that they satisfied that the "activities and practices of the Scout organizations are not in any way contrary to the authority's policy on equal opportunities, substantial activities of a racist nature are not being undertaken and that the normal criteria relating to grant aid are observed".

The investigation was ordered after Mr Neil Fletcher, inman of the further and

higher education subcommittee took exception to remarks made last December by Major General Michael Walsh, the Chief Scout, when he called for discipline, marching and drilling in the movement. Youth officers examined the movement for militarism, sexism, racism and other forms of discrimination. Grants for a capital expenditure were withheld pending the investigation, although the authority, continued to pay the Scout's running costs. Last year the authority gave £62,000 to the movement. Yesterday Mr Fletcher said he could see no reason why money should be held back now. "It has been a useful exercise", he said.

Ferry union may agree to talks

By Our Labour Reporter

Hopes were raised yesterday that serious disruption of ferry services on the Channel and St. Sea routes may be averted. Seamen's leaders have agreed to put an invitation to arbitration to a meeting of union representatives tomorrow. It is thought that the meeting shop stewards from ferry firms all over Britain will agree the talks with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service, which have been posed by the Townsend Green ferry company.

The company's operations in Felixstowe, Suffolk and in the Channel, Scotland, have been held for 11 days because of a strike over pay. The National Union of Seamen will still seek a move for an extension of the strike to other ports, but it is thought that an escalation of the strike will be held in reserve. There had been fears in the on that Dover ferry firm might not join the action if it did not do so, but Mr George Higgins, senior shop steward said the Townsend Green sailings could be resumed by tomorrow night if necessary.

South accused of murder

Anthony Greaves, aged 17, appeared before magistrates at Ton, Derbyshire, yesterday charged with the murder of a Towers, aged 16, who was found dead in the Peak district.

Mr Greaves, an apprentice fitter, of Matlock Gardens, Newley, Glossop, was remanded in custody for six days. Application was made for a school contract challenge fails.

Labour attempt to challenge plans by Conservative-controlled Cambridgeshire County Council to contract out the county's schools to private operators was blocked at High Court judge in London yesterday.

Mr Justice Woolf, in a political judgment, said that the group, was refused leave to apply for an order quashing the council's decision in June to contract out the work. Mr Justice Woolf, it was a political judgment.

Boys stole from court phone box

Two boys aged 16 yesterday tried stealing £35 from a phone coin box in the foyer of the County Magistrates' Court in Torquay. The boys were caught by police, and the case was adjourned for a month.

Disinfectant test

Dr Reginald Bosanquet, the first TN newsreader, was in the College Hospital, London, yesterday undergoing tests to see what the effect of disinfectant was on his pancreas. His condition was said to be stable.

Salmon tag plan to foil the poachers

From Tim Jones Cardiff

Water authority chiefs will make submissions to the Government today which they hope will lead to legislation that would put out of business gangs of poachers who are taking stocks worth hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The move comes as the poachers are turning to high technology and poison to kill salmon as they head up river to spawn. The proposals to be put before the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food would make it illegal to sell a salmon that has not been tagged after being caught.

Officials of the Welsh Water Authority who have studied a similar scheme in Canada, are convinced it will be a big step towards controlling the poachers who can devastate a salmon run in one night.

Last week in North Wales one gang poured cyanide into the river Cwyd and killed 120 sea trout weighing up to 10lbs each, eight salmon and 44 brown trout.

It is a critical time for the salmon runs in Wales. Although it has been very dry occasional mountain storms are enough to give the fish, waiting at sea, a smell of the river to which they must return.

To trap the professional poachers the Welsh Water Authority has obtained light-intensifying devices that enable night-vision goggles to be used in the dark to see whether people are fishing illegally.

With salmon worth £4 a pound, the gangs are using short-wave radios to maintain lookouts as they search the pools where the salmon wait for the river to rise.

Strangely, a disproportionate number of people caught and convicted for poaching offences come from Bridport, in Dorset, although big city gangs take their share.

The Welsh Water Authority is heartened that magistrates at last seem to be taking the offence seriously and have begun to impose sentences commensurate to the time and effort spent by bailiffs on their night-time patrols.

Last month for the first time in North Wales, a crown court ordered the confiscation of a van that had been used by a convicted poacher. The authority said: "We were very pleased because it indicated that the problem is now being taken seriously".

Baby born in jumbo at 35,000ft.

A six pound baby girl was delivered by a stewardess on a British Airways flight from Sydney to London yesterday. Mrs Jennifer Gibb, aged 24 of Australia, who was 29 weeks pregnant, suddenly went into labour as the Boeing 747 jumbo jet was approaching the Mediterranean, at 35,000 feet and the baby was delivered by Rita Ellis, a stewardess and former midwife, aided by two other cabin staff.

The pilot, Captain Trevor Cooper, had radioed Larnaca Airport in Cyprus for permission to land as soon as Mrs Gibb's labour started. Mrs Gibb's husband, who was in hospital in Larnaca last night, Her husband Robert, who was born in Britain, was with them. Passengers made a collection which totalled more than £300. Doctors at the hospital praised the stewardess, who comes from Sandhurst, Surrey, as an excellent delivery.

When the baby arrived free of complications, she was awarded drinks were served to all on board. Rita Ellis said it was a big surprise.



Mr William Walker, who found the Surrey dinosaur's claw (Photograph: Brian Harris).

New chapter for dinosaur

By John Witherow

The unknown species of dinosaur excavated from a claypit in Surrey last month is attracting worldwide scientific interest, the Natural History Museum said yesterday.

Dr Alan Charig, who led the excavation and is in charge of the museum's dinosaur section, said the find of the carnivorous skeleton was extremely important "because it is a totally new species of dinosaur. Even more important, this is the first record of any meat-eating dinosaur being found in rock of this age anywhere in the world."

The museum dated the skeleton at about 124 million years old and said it was found in rocks of the lower cretaceous period.

Holding up the foot-long claw of the animal, Dr Charig said:

"The sheer size of this is what amazed us."

He added they had discovered fish teeth near the creature's stomach, suggesting it may have used the claw "as a gaff for fishing in the same way as a bear does with salmon".

The dinosaur, similar to the megalosaurus which roamed the earth for 100 million years, was up to 15ft in height, weighed two tons (half the size of a fully-grown elephant) and could run up to 20 miles an hour.

The area of Surrey where it was found, which is being kept secret to prevent souvenir hunters removing other fossils, was in that epoch a marshy delta, with lush sub-tropical vegetation on which iguanodons, herbivorous dinosaurs, fed and were in turn devoured by carnivores. Other contemporaries would have been crocodiles, turtles and lizards.

Dr Charig said the claypit was well-known as a source for fossils and he had excavated an iguanodon skeleton there only last year, just 100 yards from where Mr William Walker, an amateur fossil collector, discovered the claw last January.

He could only speculate that the creature was between 40 and 50 years old and said that very little was known about its predatory habits or whether it hunted alone or in packs. Because the skeleton was partially broken up he thought it possible that it may have met a violent death.

The museum hopes to exhibit parts of the dinosaur, which has yet to be named, before the end of the year.

Moor man wins peat victory

Mr William Bunting, aged 66, won a partial victory yesterday in his battle to have Thorne Moor, South Yorkshire, registered as common land in the face of objections from the landowners, Fisons, the horticultural firm.

Mr Bunting, a local historian, whose ill-health caused him to collapse in court during the nine-day hearing of his appeal in Doncaster last month, was not at the High Court in London yesterday to hear Mr Justice Mervyn Davies give his decision.

In the appeal, Mr Bunting, of Silver Street, Thorne, sought to obtain the reversal of a ruling by the Commons Commissioner in March, 1976, that the 3,000-acre Thorne Moor, where Fisons cuts peat, was not common land.

The judge decided that Mr Bunting's appeal should be allowed, but only to a "limited extent" in relation to an ancient common right of "turbary", the right to cut turf or peat for domestic use.

That right, he said, attached only to Mr Bunting's house, which was built in 1868 on the site of a much older dwelling, which stood there before 1626.

Mr Bunting had originally also claimed common rights over the whole wood under a decree of 1630 "piscary, venery, aucupary, plantage, estovers, and vert" (fish, fur, feather, pig-pasture, firewood, and green harvesting) and the right to graze up to 1,000 cattle.

Fisons were given leave to appeal. Mr Bunting, who argued his appeal personally, has awarded his costs and expenses against Fisons.

Hailsham calls for 'suicide' transcript

By a Staff Reporter

The Lord Chancellor's office yesterday called for a transcript of a hearing in which a judge said he wished people who tried to kill themselves with drug overdoses "would show more efficiency".

Judge Bertrand Richards, a circuit judge for the past 13 years, attracted censure last year for fining a rapist and accusing the victim of negligence for hitch-hiking late at night.

Judge Richards, aged 70, said on Monday at Bury St Edmunds Crown Court: "I wish these people would show more efficiency about these overdoses, how much trouble they would save."

He made the comment after hearing that Marcus Moseng, aged 26, an epileptic who admitted forgery, deception and burglary, had made several suicide attempts. The judge rejected a psychiatrist's recommendation that Moseng should receive treatment at a hostel and jailed him for a year.

An accurate close to Judge Richards said yesterday that

Moseng had appeared before him on three previous occasions and each time a doctor had pleaded for leniency on the ground that he had tried to kill himself.

"Quite frankly, the judge was fed up with seeing him in the dock," he said. "He had given him his chances before and his remarks were intended in the manner of someone giving advice to an old friend who had let him down."

The National Association for Mental Health (MIND) and Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, were both writing to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, asking him to look into the matter. MIND described the comments as "very insensitive to an inhumanity".

The Lord Chancellor's office said it could dismiss a circuit judge for "incapacity or misbehaviour" but had no recollection of that happening in the past dozen years.

Rabbits put Government on the run

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

The Government has given up its search for a contraceptive pill for wild rabbits, the animals, which are at their most prolific at this time of year, may safely breed until they are antagonists in state laboratories can devise something new.

The Ministry of Agriculture favoured a pill because it was thought not to have a "compensatory breeding response", if animals are exterminated in one area, the birthrate near by will rise and repopulation will

take place, there is evidence that if animal numbers in one place are reduced by a pill, the birthrate near by will not rise.

The pill works on stray cats, but the scientists could not find anything that worked for long enough on rabbits. The animals can breed at the age of six months, and one can produce several litters a year.

The ministry is now working on rat killers which, it explained, cause "haemorrhaging of the lungs and gut". But it is

many generations of rabbits away from feeding them to the animals in the countryside. To do so it would need a change in the law which bans the poisoning of rabbits.

But it is moving steadily that way. One team is investigating possible rabbit poisons, and has eliminated five from a shortlist of eight, another is testing baits like raw carrot and cabbage to see if there is anything which will attract rabbits alone.

Custard blast scientists blaze new trail

From Pearce Wright Science Editor, Buxton

The Derbyshire hills echoed to explosions and glowed with pyrotechnics yesterday as government scientists demonstrated research into why substances that should not explode in fact do.

The scientists at the Explosion and Flame Research Laboratory of the Health and Safety Executive, near Buxton, have shown, among other things, why custard powder can cause devastation as thoroughly as explosive charges - and they are now offering to do contract research for industry.

The custard powder investigation was done after a factory was devastated and nine workers were severely burnt. A ton of custard powder had over flowed from a faulty container and a spark from a broken electrical connexion detonated the dust in the atmosphere.

It was comparable with the sort of explosion which has in the past occurred in mines where mixtures of coal dust and methane ignited.

The laboratory has a 1,200ft-long tunnel used as an explosion gallery to study the behaviour of gas and dusts in mines.

A new system has been produced from that research to prevent pit coal dust explosions.

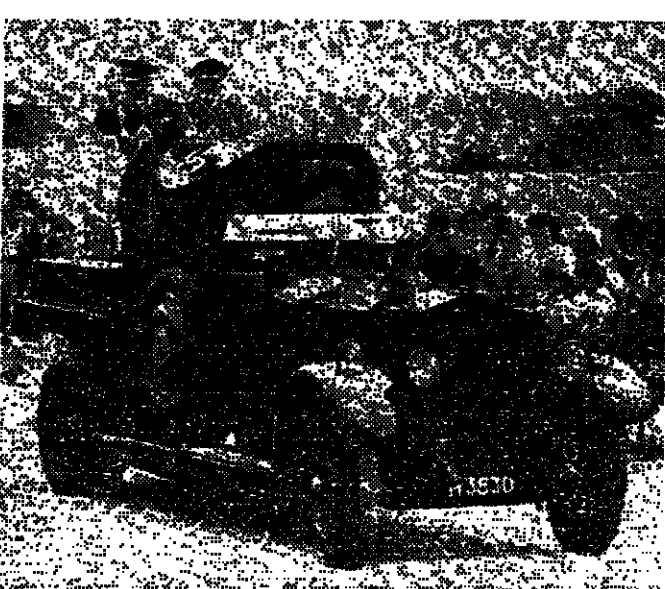
Vintage arrival for Duke of Kent

The unmistakable shape of the bonnet proclaiming its parentage, the Duke of Kent arrives in a rare 1920 Rolls-Royce armoured car to open a new section of the Army Tank Museum, at Bovington yesterday.

Travelling with the Duke on one of the museum's many working exhibits is General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff.

The Duke, who was once a driving instructor in the Army, praised the efforts of the museum's fund-raisers and the expansion which was providing 20 new jobs in the museum.

When complete the rebuilt museum will have cost about £1m. The rebuilding will mean that nearly all the exhibits are protected from the elements.



American may face 'death row' if extradited

By a Staff Reporter

An American citizen being held in Britain prison, south London, faces the death penalty if he is extradited to the United States and convicted of double murder.

Mr Ernest Kirkwood is alleged to have killed two men and wounded a third in San Francisco last July and after a hearing at Bow Street in May the magistrate ordered his extradition at the request of the

United States authorities. The European Commission of Human Rights has accepted his complaint that Britain is breaking its extradition treaty with the United States and will decide whether the European Court of Human Rights will hear his case if the commission cannot achieve a settlement out of court.

According to article four of the treaty between the United

States and Britain, extradition may be refused if the offence carries the death penalty in the requesting country but not in the requested country. The prisoner may be extradited in such a case only if the requesting country gives an assurance that the death penalty will not be carried out.

Although Mr Kirkwood's British lawyers sought an assurance from the United

States authorities that he would not be executed if found guilty, the Home Office has told them only that the Deputy Attorney General of California will allow representation to be made by Britain if Mr Kirkwood is condemned to death.

There are 120 people on "death row" in California, where the gas chamber is the method of execution.

Friends say farewell to Bodkin Adams

The story of Dr John Bodkin Adams, either the cold-blooded murderer of 25 elderly people who had made him their beneficiary in their wills, or the innocent victim of a vicious whispering campaign which took him to the dock at the Central Criminal Court ended in Eastbourne, East Sussex, yesterday.

Dr Adams, who died earlier this month, aged 84, was surrounded by his staunchest friends at the funeral service in the Holy Trinity Church.

Outside, holidaymakers watched with curiosity as the elderly gentleman of the South Coast spa, where the doctor first arrived in 1922, limped into church.

About 150 of them attended the service. They all described themselves as friends or patients.

The short, balding doctor was beneficiary in 132 wills in which he was left £45,000 but in today's terms it would be worth £500,000. He was also left cars, one of his abiding passions, and silver.

One of those at the service was Mr John Cheesborough, his solicitor, who said later of the doctor's own will: "He has remembered everybody, all his friends."

Was it a large estate? "It will not be small", Mr Cheesborough said.

It was in 1957 that Adams was charged with the murder of one of his elderly patients, Mrs Edith Morrell, by "administering powerful and dangerous drugs". After a 17-day trial during which he spoke only the six words: "I am not guilty, my Lord" he was acquitted.

There are still some who believe he was the mass murderer of the century. One of them, Mr Charles Hewitt, a former detective chief superintendent who spent more than a year on the case, believes he deserved to hang 20 times over.

But Mr Charles Aldous, a former mayor of Eastbourne, and the former owner of a nursing home to whom the doctor used to refer patients, said: "In his mid-life he became the victim of a vicious whispering campaign of rumour and vilification, engineered by those who had no knowledge whatsoever of the true man and his caring kindness."

Like many of his patients, Dr Adams, who will always be the classic enigma in the annals of mass killing, was cremated.



Dr Adams: Murderer or victim of rumour.

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Press accused of lying over Sutcliffe case

HOUSE OF LORDS

If the present process continued and there were more Sutcliffe cases and more examples of gross, indefensible intrusion into privacy by the press, then the House of Lords would be asked to take a hand. Lord of Lords of the House of Lords when he opened a debate on the Press Council's report on the Sutcliffe case.

He said he did not favour the introduction of new repressive legislation on the law of contempt. But just as clearly what he and others wanted was an end to the catalogue of grossly irresponsible conduct chronicled by the Press Council in its report on the Sutcliffe case, which had been repeated in some less notorious cases since then.

On the aspect of cheque-book journalism, he said no one could read about the heavily written notes offered for sale by the press through the letterboxes of Mr Sutcliffe's relatives and others without experiencing a deep sense of revulsion.

No one could read of the remorseless harassment of the bereaved mother of the last of Mr Sutcliffe's victims without being shocked by the almost indecent conduct of sections of the press. There had been calculated deceit practised by a number of newspapers in their response to inquiries by the Press Council. If any of those newspapers had caught out a politician making such wholly untruthful statements they would have demanded his instant resignation. (Cheers) They seemed to apply rather different standards to their own conduct.

Wholly deceitful statements had been made by a number of newspapers to the Press Council on the question of fees offered to Mr Sutcliffe's relatives and to Mrs Dorcas Hill, the mother of the last victim.

He did not favour a statutory Press Council and disliked press laws in principle. It was because so many in both Houses of Parliament opposed statutory regulation of any kind that they found the conduct of the press at the moment so disgusting.

The blunt truth was that some sections of the press regarded the Press Council with barely veiled contempt. The press was now a minority who cared little for its views and were prepared to say so in the most unambiguous language.

It was not time for the newspaper industry, and particularly the three principal proprietors, to put their own house in order because if they failed to do so they would do great damage to the cause of a free press. (Cheers)

Lord Ardwick, for the Opposition, said he was disappointed that no newspaper publisher or proprietor who was a member of the House was taking part in the debate. Nobody wanted editors stifled by their proprietor, but the proprietors

must recognize that they and their editors had a joint responsibility to the public.

Four or five national newspapers had gone beyond the pale in their search for information about the Sutcliffe case. They had crossed such public indignation that there was a danger of restraining legislation which would restrict the freedom of the media. If the press did not put their own house in order, somebody would do it for them and it could be crippling and unnecessary.

Although it was impossible to justify the behaviour of the press, which was outrageous, one could see the temptation was enormously strong. This was the murder of the country in which the murderer had gone for five years undetected and killed 13 people. It was a state of affairs in which the women of Yorkshire and Lancashire were afraid to leave their homes at night. It is not the last sensational case which is going to come before us. One wonders what will happen when the next sensational case comes along. How will the press behave?

The Press Council were satisfied that unless the press regulated its conduct, calls for legislation against cheque book journalism were likely to continue and eventually prevail. The council had decided to extend its Declaration of Principle. The original declaration did not bar payments to people related to, or associated with, those engaged in crime. The council had now come to the conclusion that such payments were wrong.

The council were right to take some action to bring themselves and newspapers into line with public opinion. The new chairman of the council should have individual meetings with editors to discuss ways in which the extension of the declaration could be made workable and, because it was workable, could gain respect.

Editors (said) live curiously cloistered lives. They arrive at their offices towards luncheon and often on lower levels of the great deal of their time is spent with other newspapermen. Though they learn from their messengers a great deal about public opinion on almost every subject, they seldom have direct contact with the people view newspapers and the media.

There is today a general ambivalence towards the media among ordinary people. The media is jekyll and hyde. People are sometimes gripped by them, resent their enslavement. The public often feel that the papers on the one side and television on the other have become a two-headed monster with an excess of power.

Newspapers may have devoted readers, but the press as an institution has few friends. It may have fewer defenders if the conduct of several newspapers inspires proposals for repressive legislation.

Lady Sharples (C) said one of the most unattractive aspects was that no thought was given to the hurt misery and disgust felt by the



Harris: Calculated deceit.



Ardwick: Beyond the pale.

families of the victims. The Press Council had changed the declaration in principle to cover payments to relatives and associates of criminals.

The council should be given all the backing it needed. It did not ask for legislation, and if that was its feeling it should be able to say so until the press had been given another chance to put their house in order.

Lord Winger (L) said the main responsibility for what had occurred rested with the police. The police themselves, in many of their activities that started this matter off, were in contempt of court. Mass responsibility overwhelmed the press.

He supported the freedom of the press, waris and all, because it was an essential prerequisite for any form of free society. It was not proper to go on to say that that freedom could only be exercised on certain terms of conditions. Some newspapers, including *The Times*, had indicated how unduly they thought the conduct of their fellow journalists had been.

He did not want to suggest that the Press Council should be given statutory powers but the law on contempt should be enforced. There should be laws against the worst kinds of chequebook journalism.

Lord McGregor of Durris (SDP), who was chairman of the Royal Commission on the Press, said this squalid episode highlighted once again the recurring theme of anxiety about the conduct of the press. With the Sutcliffe case, the point was reached at which the irresponsibility became intolerable.

A fundamental question in the debate was whether the press was to be a statutory body or not. Should democrats use legal sanctions to impose responsibility upon the press? He believed a recourse to law, however superficially attractive it might appear to be, would be a dangerous innovation.

What we are talking about (he went on) is a disease of Fleet Street. There is strong resentment which has been expressed by editors and journalists in the provinces that they are tarred with the Fleet Street brush.

The majority of publishers must isolate and discipline the tiny minority of troublemakers among publishers and editors.

They must expect from publishers a series of public commitments. There should be a public commitment to provide adequate funding for the Press Council in order that it might have the staff to deal efficiently with its work. It must be raised from an automatic levy on circulations.

A second public commitment was an agreement on the part of all

publishers to support the Press Council and to undertake to ensure that in all their publications editors would be required to observe the Press Council standards.

The publishers must act in this way or there must be legislative action with all the risks entailed.

Lord Jacobson (Lab), who said he was for a number of years on the Press Council, pointed out that the circulation was had reached a figure which had presented the Press Council with a vast increase in complaints and the reading public with a great decline in the standards of popular journalism among some papers.

There was a small handful of newspaper proprietors and publishers and two of them were in the House - Lord Rothermere of the *Daily Express* and the *Daily Star*. The other was Mr Rupert Murdoch, owner of *The Sun* and the *News of the World*.

Lord Eton, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said the sensitive and difficult issue of cheque-book journalism was the main subject of the report.

The most objectionable aspect of press conduct in the case of Peter Sutcliffe had been the payment of large sums of money for stories and information to people related to, or associated with, Sutcliffe.

The Government shared the view of people who condemned this type of cheque-book journalism. It was always wrong for crime to pay. It was also wrong and offensive if it should be made to pay on such a grand scale, whether the profit accrued to the criminal or anyone else.

The Government welcomed the Press Council's action in strengthening its existing declaration of principle on cheque-book journalism by asserting that just as it was wrong that the evil-doer should benefit from his crime, so it was wrong that a person associated with the criminal should derive financial benefit from trading on that association.

The Government also wanted to avoid supplying those forces and then had the brass neck to claim £2m war damages from the Government?

Why should a capitalist outfit like Coalite, with pre-tax profits of over £27m, be allowed to make a killing out of an unexcused war in which over 1,000 people lost their lives?

to the extent that it got £93,000 for supplying the Falkland Islands with the brass neck to claim £2m war damages from the Government?

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Canavan: Brass neck of Coalite Company.

Mr Whitely: He confuses at least three different issues. None of them would argue with him about the horror of 1,000 lives being lost.

On the question of trading, in point of legal fact no legislative action has been taken to prevent the kind of activities to which he refers and therefore the Falkland Islands Company did not appear to be

Defence sales to reach £2,400m: India orders helicopters

DEFENCE

British Sea King helicopters with Gnome engines and Sea Eagle missiles, will be sold to the Government of India, Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, announced in the Commons. He said, when opening the second day of the defence debate, that Western Helicopters, Rolls Royce and British Aerospace had signed contracts yesterday.

He also said that discussion with Britain's European partners on the potential for collaborative development and production of a future combat aircraft had so far been encouraging.

An Opposition amendment to the Government motion seeking approval of the defence estimates, called on the Government to work within Nato for a strong non-nuclear defence policy and, in particular, to cease its reliance upon Trident and the deployment of cruise missiles within the United Kingdom.

Mr Patten said that this year Britain would spend more than £7,000m on defence equipment. The proportion of the defence budget which that represented had been increasing steadily and stood at 46 per cent. That vast sum took a substantial fraction of the total output of several sectors of British industry, for more than 90 per cent of it was spent with British suppliers.

The primary purpose of expenditure on defence was to ensure that the needs of the armed forces but a secondary aim was to ensure the continuing existence of a national defence industrial base capable of satisfying those needs now and in the future.

While research and development in the defence programme was directed towards the future, the value of defence-inspired technology to industry was fully recognized. The Ministry of Defence attached great importance to securing 'spin-off' from defence research whenever possible. They were about to commission a major management consultancy study into how greater benefits could be secured.

Over the next few years, four regiments would be equipped with the Challenger tank, the first of which had rolled out from the Royal Ordnance Factory Leeds, in March. A programme of improvements would keep Challenger and Challenger tanks in the forefront of armoured war technology.

In thermal imaging British research at Royal Signals and Radar Establishment Malvern had given Britain a world lead.

The new battlefield information system, BATES, was expected to enter service in the late 1980s. This computer-based system would enable commanders to make more effective and efficient use of existing resources by concentrating fire on the highest priority targets.

The first production contract for WAVE, an automated command and control system, was expected to be awarded to the MOD and other data was expected to be placed shortly, following successful trials with 1(BR) Corps. First production deliveries of the new trunk

communicating network, PTARMIGAN, were expected this year.

The RAF would need, for their role on the central front, an advance agile fighter aircraft to meet the expected air threat in the mid-1990s and beyond.

To give a sounder base for future decisions on an aircraft for the role, they were participating in the experimental aircraft programme, a joint venture involving both the Royal Aeronautical Establishment and industry.

That would bring together and demonstrate in one aircraft a number of advanced technologies available to a variety of future aircraft designs.

The MOD had placed the production order for the JP 233 airfield attack weapon to be carried on Tornado GR1. It was also acquiring an improved version of the experimental aircraft programme, an interim measure until an advanced "smart" anti-armour weapon, for which studies were underway, was available in the 1990s.

It was essential for this country to maintain an innovative capability in these areas by keeping skilled design and production teams together as a springboard for future industrial development. This could only be done if the production runs were long enough to recoup the substantial investment involved and earn a reasonable level of profit.

Since Britain's own requirements did not provide the long production runs now needed to secure an adequate return on high technology investment, overseas sales were vital.

Under this Government and its predecessor defence sales had grown steadily, total receipts were expected to reach £2,400m in the current financial year, compared with £1,500m in 1981-82. This was a healthy contribution to Britain's balance of payments in a period of recession accounting for some 3 per cent of total exports.

Defence sales sustained approximately 154,000 direct and indirect job opportunities in the defence equipment industry and accounted for some 3 per cent of total exports.

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While many sales were made to the United States, it was particularly gratifying that there was a steady improvement in sales to the United States. In 1977 the ratio was 4:1 in favour of the United States, whereas it was now assessed to be only 2:1.

The Government intended to introduce legislation this session to change the status of the Royal Ordnance factories to enable them to operate in a more commercial environment under the Companies Acts. In due course, the intention was to involve private capital directly either through sale to the private sector, joint venture or flotation of shares.

Since last May they had been preparing the Royal Ordnance factories for this new role as a free-standing commercial enterprise and their own sales arm had already been set up. A new chairman had been appointed and they next planned to transfer the staff and facilities necessary to give them their own commercial identity, development and applied research.

The ROFs (he said) will face a challenging future but the opportunities are great.

increased, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said when replying to questions on his statement on the outcome of the Foreign Affairs Council held in Brussels on Monday.

The burden of showing that the Community needed more resources was still upon those who sought to do it, he said. The Government was prepared to listen to those arguing that case and consider it on its merits.

Howe may have talks on death penalty

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during question time changes in the Commons that he was willing to talk to the Home Secretary about the possibility of Britain signing a protocol seeking to write into the European Convention on Human Rights the abolition of the death penalty.

Mr John Major (Leicester, West, C) asked if he would consider whether he should advise the Government to sign Protocol 6 as this would seem appropriate action for Britain to take.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: It is a matter I would be prepared to discuss with the Home Secretary.

figure was perfectly adequate and ought not to be increased.

Mr Peter Bottomley (Eltham, C) said the poor could afford to become MPs and so could the rich. The importance of that was that it was made on behalf of the Cabinet.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP) asked with whom, if they were to equate themselves with some other calling or occupation and take that as their valuation, were they to equate the status, responsibility and honour of an MP? It would be at the valuation they had put upon themselves that they would be taken by the country and people at large.

They did not do any service if they undervalued the work of an MP. Bodies like the Plowden Committee should not be set up and large sums spent in the process and what they said then be ignored.

The House should not be bought off by the Government or antagonized by the Opposition. It should be designed to let the Government look out of any kind because they would not be doing the Government any service if they brought it back to the problem year after year, as they surely would.

Mr Norman St John Stevas (Chelmsford, C) said this was a House of Commons matter, to be decided by the House and not by the Government.

I suppose there has been general agreement in the House (he said) that the Government has not handled this matter especially badly. MPs have been exposed in the press to a campaign of innuendo and in the case of some newspapers, vilification. It is the ability to command if they had made a choice different from that which they and the electorate made on June 9. Viewed in that light, the present

MPs outline legislation proposals

COMMONS

The following 20 private members' Bills were formally introduced, read a first time and set down for second reading on the following Fridays:

NOVEMBER 11
Video Recordings Bill to make provision for regulating the distribution of video recordings. (Mr Graham Bright, Luton, South, C.)

Trade Marks Act 1938 (Amendment) Bill to amend the Trade Marks Act 1938 to afford registration for service marks. (Mr Stephen Dorrell, Loughborough, C.)

Partnership in Youth Service Bill to give a statutory basis for youth work and consultation between local education authorities and voluntary youth organisations. (Sir Patrick Vall, Beverley, C.)

Agriculture (Amendment) Bill to amend section 2(3) of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1944 so far as it relates to provisions for limiting the number of directors of the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation who may be appointed in addition to those officially nominated and provisions for restricting the dividends on the Corporation's share capital, and to enable grants under section 64 of the Agriculture Act 1967 towards fulfilling guarantees of bank loans to be made in relation to a wider range of conferred by subsection (1) of the Agriculture Act 1967 and to repeat subsection (5) of that section. (Mr Edward Leigh, Gainsborough and Horncastle, C.)

Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill to amend the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries Act 1963 in relation to the conduct and advertisement of licensed betting offices and to make provision for the alteration of the number of betting licences under the Schedule 1 to that Act. (Sir Ian Gilmour, Chesham and Amersham, C.)

Cycle Tracks Bill to amend the definition of "cycle track" in the Highways Act 1980 and to make further provision in relation to cycle tracks within the meaning of that Act. (Mr Cecil Franks, Barrow and Furness, C.)

Registration of the People Bill to enable electors who are away on holiday at the time of a Parliamentary election to vote by post or by proxy. (Mr Anthony Durand, Reading, West, C.)

NOVEMBER 18
Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill to make further provision for, and to amend, the law relating to disabled persons. (Mr Robert Mearns, Liverpool West Derby, Lab.)

Canada and Test Sites Bill to make provision as to the licensing and control of caravan and tent sites. (Mr Peter Hubbard-Miles, Bridgend, C.)

NOVEMBER 25
Social Security (Age of Retirement) Bill to make provision for flexible and equal ages of retirement. (Sir David Price, Eastleigh, C.)

Immigration Offences (Amendment) Bill to amend section 24 of the Immigration Act 1971 to make it an offence under subsection (1)(b) of that section. (Mr John Blackburn, Dudley West, C.)

DECEMBER 2
Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Bill to make new provision for Scotland and to amend the Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Act 1973 to make contributions to wrongdoers to amend the law relating to the time-limits for bringing actions which consist of or include a claim of damages in respect of personal injuries or the death of a person, provision relating to the application of rules of law of a country other than Scotland in respect of the extinction of obligations or the limitation of time within which proceedings may be brought to enforce obligations. (Mr Alexander Eadie, Midlothian, Lab.)

Northern Ireland Act 1982 (Amendment) Bill to facilitate the resumption of legislative and executive functions of the Northern Ireland Assembly and by persons responsible to it, by amending the Northern Ireland Act 1982. (Mr Kenneth Maginnis, Fermanagh and South Tyrone, OUP)

Juries (Disqualification) Bill to make further provision for disqualification for jury service on criminal grounds. (Mr John Watson, Skipton and Ripon, C.)

DECEMBER 9
Sex Equality Bill to make further provision with respect to sex discrimination, equal pay and the age of retirement; and to consolidate with the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the Sex Discrimination Acts. (Ms Jo Richardson, Barking, Lab.)

Anatomy Bill to make provision about the use of bodies of deceased persons, and parts of such bodies, for anatomical examination and about the custody of bodies of deceased persons, and parts of such bodies, authorised to be used for anatomical examination. (Mr John McWilliam, Blaydon, Lab.)

Road Traffic (Driving Instruction) Bill to amend Part V of the Road Traffic Act 1972. (Mrs Elizabeth Peacock, Batley and Spen, C.)

DECEMBER 16
Household Buyers Bill to extend competition and to protect consumers in relation to the provision of services in connection with the transfer of ownership of real property in England and Wales by amending section 22 of the Solicitors Act 1974, by making provision for the licensing of conveyancers, by making fresh provision for and in connection with the keeping of local land charges and the registration of matters affecting land, and by amending the law concerning the liability of surveyors who provide services in connection with the transfer of real property. (Mr Austin Mitchell, Great Grimsby, Lab.)

Child Abduction Bill to amend the criminal law relating to the abduction of children. (Mr Timothy Wood, Stevenage, C.)

Abuse of Toxic Substances Bill, to provide for the temporary detention of persons found in public places under the influence of such substances and for the seizure of such substances. (Mr Neville Trotter, Tynemouth, C.)

Parliament today
Commons (2.30) Motions on rate reduction in Scotland. (Kirkcaldy District and Glasgow District, Stirling District and Lothian Region, Lords) (3) Data Protection Bill, committee, second day.

No political conditions in IMF loans

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

It was not possible to write political conditions into the rules of the International Monetary Fund, Sir Geoffrey Howe, said when he was asked about Argentina using loans for military purposes.

Mr Kenneth Warren (Hastings and Rye, C) had asked him to make representations to the United States Organization to exert further influence on Argentina to acknowledge the formal cessation of hostilities to the South Atlantic.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: We shall continue to take suitable opportunities to remind members of the United Nations, including Argentina, that the threat or use of force to settle international disputes is forbidden under the United Nations Charter.

Mr Warren: Many British people are tired up with the Italians and French being eager to return Argentina to the threshold of our Falklands defence capability. It is time the United Nations, which is so eager to impose sanctions on those trying to

move towards war, should try to impose equal strictness towards those who want peace.

Sir Geoffrey Howe: I would hesitate to overstate the United Nations' capacity to act in such a fashion. But it is regrettable that armaments have been delivered.

Mr Eric Deakin (Walthamstow, Lab): Why does he refuse to submit the dispute over sovereignty of the Falklands to the International Court of Justice in accordance with our international obligations?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Because there has been a long and abortive history of that kind.

Mr John Farr (Harborough, C): Argentina is almost financially bankrupt. Will he see it in future that negotiations with us through the IMF in relation to funds for Argentina are not proceeded with until she recognizes a ceasefire in the South Atlantic?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: It is not possible under the IMF articles to attach political conditions about the fulfilment of obligations to and by the fund.

Mr Donald Anderson (Opposition): A Labour minister and Commonwealth affairs. (Swansea East, Lab): Surely in international debt negotiations such conditions could be imposed? Why did not Sir Geoffrey seek to do so last time when he imposed conditions that any loan would not be used for military purposes?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: Because it is not possible within the rules of the fund, designed as an organization dealing with member states, to do so. If it were sought to have political and other conditions, and the power to make them, written into financial organization, this would not be fulfilling the nature of the organization.

Company did not trade illegally with Argentines

The Falkland Islands Company did not appear to be acting illegally in supplying goods to the Argentine military authorities, Mr Raymond Whitely, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during questions in the Commons.

Mr Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West, Lab) asked if he would seek to meet representatives of the company to discuss Government policy on the Falkland Islands.

Mr Whitely: Ministers and officials already discuss regularly a wide range of matters with those who have a significant interest in the Falkland Islands, including the Falkland Islands company.

Mr Canavan: Will the Government order an inquiry into reports that the company collaborated with the occupying Argentine forces last year

to the extent that it got £93,000 for supplying the Falkland Islands with the brass neck to claim £2m war damages from the Government?

Why should a capitalist outfit like Coalite, with pre-tax profits of over £27m, be allowed to make a killing out of an unexcused war in which over 1,000 people lost their lives?

Canavan: Brass neck of Coalite Company.

Mr Whitely: He confuses at least three different issues. None of them would argue with him about the horror of 1,000 lives being lost.

On the question of trading, in point of legal fact no legislative action has been taken to prevent the kind of activities to which he refers and therefore the Falkland Islands Company did not appear to be

acting illegally in supplying goods to the occupying forces. The Falkland Islands Company, he said, accounts for less than 1 per cent of the group's profits.

US objectives in Central America

The United States' Objectives in Central America are pacification of the area, the restoration of stable social conditions and a reduction in the flow of arms to that part of the world, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said at question time in the Commons.

Mr James Lamond (Oldham Central and Royton, Lab) asked: Is anyone in the Foreign Office aware that there is a deepening crisis in central America made worse by 'American' naval measures in the area, increased involvement with aggressive government there and now the suggestion that Dr Henry Kissinger is to become involved?

Could it be that the MOD has both hands and issue a word of caution to the United States President about this?

Sir Geoffrey Howe: He is right to draw attention to the serious implications of the MOD's policy, did not mean follow that own resources should be

As Leader of the House on March 4 1980 he had made a pledge that the recommendations of the review committee would be accepted and the importance of that was that it was made on behalf of the Cabinet.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, OUP) asked with whom, if they were to equate themselves with some other calling or occupation and take that as their valuation, were they to equate the status, responsibility and honour of an MP? It would be at the valuation they had put upon themselves that they would be taken by the country and people at large.

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LATE DEBATE

After a debate lasting until nearly 8am today (Wednesday) the Commons carried by 218 votes to 168 a motion to give the Government advice, the key motion, which will mean the salary of MPs will take a leap on January 1 1988 to match the pay of a civil servant who was being paid £18,500 on June 13 1983.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the House, had said at the beginning of the debate that to carry that amendment, supported by two former Conservative ministers, would mean a salary leap for MPs just ahead of a general election.

The main motion before the House was moved by Mr Edward De Caux (Taunton, C), chairman of the 1922 Committee of backbench Conservative MPs and was the result of negotiation by him with the Government. It would give MPs staged increases taking their pay from £14,510 now to £18,500 over five years. Unamended, the motion would then have linked MPs' pay to that of a civil servant then earning £18,500.

The amendment successfully

Managua agrees to international talks on Central America crisis

From Marlene Simons (NYT), Managua

Nicaraguan Government marking the fourth anniversary of the Sandinista Revolution announced yesterday that it was willing to participate in international talks to achieve peace in Central America.

The announcement also called for negotiations on other points previously discussed by the United States, including arms supplies and any support for the left rebels in El Salvador.

The announcement came in a main anniversary address, in which Daniel Ortega Saavedra, coordinator of the ruling Sandinista Government, said the Nicaraguan position on talks was designed to end the pretext used against the country and would permit steps to be taken by the interested parties in the region.

He said the decision appeared to be a result of the Government's position, and also a move to the call for diplomatic moves made by the four countries of the Contadora group - Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela - in the last weekend.

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Not amused: Mr Anthony Quainton, US envoy in Managua, registering his disapproval of the Sandinista anthem by turning his back.

A growing feeling that war may be coming could also be sensed in the official ceremonies. Already the conflict with rebels along the northern and southern borders has caused the death of 600 people.

He told the crowd to prepare for more fighting.

Besides being less aggressive in tone towards the United States than most Nicaraguan officials, Señor Ortega also made several conciliatory gestures aimed at the domestic audience.

Speaking in the historic city of León, 60 miles west of the capital, he said that the Government would cancel all debts of peasants serving as reservists or in the militia.

He repeated the Government's pledge to hold general elections in 1985, but contrary to wide expectations he gave no date. Aware to these expectations, the Government has been prodding the Council of State to complete its debate on laws governing political parties and electoral proceedings.

Leading article, page 11

Greeks in weak position

Stalemate has its attractions

CYPRUS Part 2

In the second article of a new series on Cyprus, DWARD MORTIMER looks at the viewpoints of the various sides disputing the future of the island.

On June 15 the United Nations Security Council renewed the mandate of UNFICYP, the UN force in Cyprus, for another six months, and once again asked Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General, to continue his mission of good offices, warning the two communities to continue their intercommunal talks.

These are essentially the remedies that have been prescribed for the Cyprus dispute since the 1960s, so far without inducing a cure. "We are continuing to renew our commitment to Cyprus because we want to behave responsibly," Mr Ian MacEachern, the Canadian Foreign Minister, remarked recently, "but there must come a day when we are asking either we are helping or we are hindering a political solution."

Many Greeks ask the same question: why have the intercommunal talks never seemed to get near a solution, but their continuance provides a reason - or an excuse for doing nothing about the Turkish occupation.

The Turks, by contrast, maintain that the Turkish troops are only there because of intercommunal conflict and are not sent home until it has been resolved. After all, they say, it did not start when the Turkish troops landed in 1974. There had been serious fighting between the two communities far back in 1963. Even Mr Jay Durrant, leader of the Turkish Cypriot opposition and strong advocate of compromise with the Greeks, rejects as nonsense the suggestion that an enlarged UN force could by itself protect the Turkish Cypriots from the Greeks.

He agrees that Turkey has strategic reasons of its own for being in Cyprus, but argues that there could have been secured a small base around Nicosia. It is to protect the Turkish Cypriots, he says, that Turkey is occupying two-fifths of the island.

On the whole, that view seems to be appreciated by the six Western powers. With the exception of France, which now has a strongly pro-Greek line,

Turkish Cypriot leader insists that Greek Cypriots must accept Turkish Cypriots as equal partners before Turkish troops can go. Objects to recognition of Greek Cypriot government.

President of Turkey: Thought to have vetoed Turkish Cypriot declaration of independence, which he fears would further isolate Turkey internationally.

President of Cyprus Republic: Believes problem is not mainly intercommunal but one of occupation by a foreign power, comparable to Afghanistan.

Prime Minister of Greece: holds that intercommunal talks cannot bring solution, and that Mr Kyprianou puts too much emphasis on them.

UN Secretary-General: Has promised personal involvement in efforts to break the deadlock. Personally neutral, but General Assembly has called for "immediate withdrawal".

They obtained on the May General Assembly resolution calling for immediate withdrawal of occupation forces. Both Britain and the United States insist that it is unrealistic for the Greeks to expect that Turkey will withdraw in response to pressure from Washington or elsewhere.

The Greeks, in the view of Western diplomats on the island, have to accept that they are bargaining from weakness,

and that General Assembly resolutions do not outweigh the strength of the Turkish position on the ground. Indeed, resolutions such as the latest one can be counterproductive, since they provoke the Turkish side into further hardening its attitude.

Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, reacted to the resolution by announcing that he would propose a referendum on independence for the north.

On June 17 the Turkish Cypriot assembly passed a resolution affirming the right of Turkish Cypriots to self-determination. But no date has been fixed for the referendum, and it seems that it is being kept in reserve for the time being.

Even this "concession" was achieved at a price, from the Greek point of view: the elimination from the Secretary-General's report to the Security Council and from the renewed mandate which the Council has given him of any reference to the General Assembly resolution which "considers the immediate withdrawal of all occupation forces... as an essential basis for a solution of the Cyprus problem."

That the Greeks have gone along with this is seen by some as an encouraging sign. They have agreed, in effect, to leave the General Assembly resolution in the background and to give Señor Pérez de Cuéllar a chance to breathe life into the moribund intercommunal talks.

Another moderately encouraging sign on the Greek Cypriot side is a spate of recent statements about the need for "political decisions" - a code phrase for concessions. President Kyprianou has been trying to reconstitute the National Council, an all-party Greek Cypriot forum, with a view to getting broad enough support for whatever decisions he eventually takes.

But it remains doubtful whether any Greek Cypriot leader can accept what the Turks want, namely a federation in which the minority community would have both complete control of its own area and an equal say in all decisions of the central government; and whether, even if the Greek Cypriots did accept that, the Turks would make significant territorial concessions in return.

The stalemate has its drawbacks for both sides, but both find its continuation preferable to any alternative they have so far been offered.

Tomorrow: The divided island.



Big band: Members of the Sandinista militia showing their appreciation during the fourth anniversary celebrations in León yesterday.

Iraq says Exocets used to hit Iran's oil

Baghdad (Reuters) - Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Iraq was using French-made Exocet missiles in the Gulf war and its Air Force and Navy would continue to hit Iranian oil and industrial installations.

"Iraq is determined to threaten Iranian petroleum and economic interests in the Gulf," Mr Aziz told a press conference. Asked if French air-to-surface Exocet missiles were being used, he replied: "The French missiles have been used since the beginning of the war and are still used against Iranian targets."

"Iraq's possession of these missiles was part of its armament before they were used in the Falklands war."

Iranian installations would remain targets for Iraqi bombs so long as Iran hampered the free flow of oil from the Gulf, he added.

Iran had destroyed large parts of Iraq's oil installations in the Gulf since the war started nearly three years ago. It had "forced a military siege that hampered the export of oil from the south, hence Iraq must act in the same way and inflict harm to the Iranian oil installations at any level."

Zimbabwe officers 'confessed freely'

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Statements by six white Zimbabwe Air Force officers, in which they allegedly admitted complicity in the Thornhill base sabotage attack were clear and truthful confessions, freely given, on which the accused should be convicted, the High Court was told here yesterday.

In his final arguments for the prosecution at the end of the eight-week trial, Mr Honor Mushi said that although the identities of those who carried out the sabotage of 13 aircraft last July had not been established, there could be no doubt that the six accused had aided in the devastation of Zimbabwe's air defences. The state has alleged that the saboteurs were three South African agents.

Air Vice-Marshal Hugh Slater, former deputy commander of the Air Force, Air Commodore Philip Pile, Wing Commander Peter Briscoe, Wing Commander John Cox, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir have pleaded not guilty to involvement in the sabotage, maintaining that their statements were false, having been extracted under duress.

Mr Mushi said the claims by the accused that they had mixed truth with falsehood to give added realism to their statements were without substance.

In each case, he told Mr Justice Dumbutshena, the statements contained factual material capable of verification.

Of the statement by Air Vice-Marshal Slater, Mr Mushi said: "There is nothing improbable in it. The style and smooth flow of the writing do not suggest a man under duress."

Turning to Squadron Leader John Ncube, the chief prosecution witness, Mr Mushi said he had given clear evidence that he had witnessed a run-down in security at Thornhill in the months before the sabotage. When the officer had taken this up with Squadron Leader Cox, who had responsibility for security manpower, he had replied: "We are at peace now."

Mr Mushi also referred to a document entitled *An appreciation of Operation Sabotage*, produced frequently during the trial. He said that the document, which the defence claims was simply a theoretical exercise designed to evaluate security preparedness at Thornhill, bore striking similarities to the sabotage.

Mr Harry Ognall QC, for the defence, is to follow with his final arguments, which are expected to be completed tomorrow. The court will then adjourn for judgment, expected late in August.

France way ahead at bridge contest

From Keith Stanley, Wiesbaden

Britain performed much better in rounds five and six of the open bridge championship. In round five, they defeated Finland 20-0 and in round six had a close match against an experienced team from The Netherlands which they lost 6-14.

The French team continued

in excellent form, defeating Spain 20-minus 3 and Israel 15-5 to move into a good lead. Italy lost 6-14 to Israel.

Round six: Switzerland 2, Romania 18; Britain 6, The Netherlands 14; Lebanon 20, Hungary 0; Turkey 10, Finland 10; Austria 3, Belgium 17; Italy 12, Norway 8; Luxembourg 0, Sweden 20; France 15, Israel 5; Denmark 17, Portugal 3; Yugoslavia 1, Poland 19; Ireland 6, Iceland 14; Germany 20, Spain minus 1.

Standings after six rounds: 1. France 104; 2. Poland 87; 3. Belgium 86; 4. Norway 86; 5. Germany 85; 6. Italy 81; 7. Denmark 70 and Lebanon 70; 9. Israel 69; 10. The Netherlands 61; 11. Hungary 60; 12. Romania 60; 13. Switzerland 59; 14. Austria 59; 15. Spain 51; 16. Ireland 49; 17. Britain 45; 18. Sweden 42; 19. Yugoslavia 37; 20. Turkey 36; 21. Portugal 35; 22. Finland 33; 23. Luxembourg 31; 24. Iceland 22.

The Post Office results '82-'83

A year of solid achievement.

SEE ORACLE PAGE 174

In '82-'83, The Post Office achieved an outstanding year of profitable trading. Below are the key points drawn from the Post Office Report and Accounts 1982/1983.

Posts

- * Profit of £131.6m. Re-invested for the benefit of customers.
- * Mails productivity up 4.8% - the best result for a decade.
- * Kept letter volume up by 3.1%.
- * Parcels up by 5.6% - confirming The Post Office as Britain's largest parcel carrier against fierce competition.
- * Reduced unit costs by 2.2% against a target of 2%.
- * Began trials at post offices on automated counter service equipment.
- * Equipped five new mechanised letter offices, bringing the total in operation to 55.
- * Extended range of express and urgent services inland and international.

National Girobank

- * Profit of £15.6m. (£13.6m. after interest on long term loans).
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Israeli pull-out decision shocks Lebanon and increases partition fear

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

Israel's decision to withdraw its Army from the Chouf mountains east of Beirut has stunned the Lebanese Government and increased its fears that Lebanon is to be partitioned.

Although both President Gemayel and Mr Chafic Wazzan, the Prime Minister, are in Washington for talks with President Reagan, and although Israel's decision to pull back to the Awaraj river had been expected, Mr Gemayel reported by telephone to his officials in Beirut that he was shocked by the announcement from Jerusalem.

Mr Wazzan described it as "a new fait accompli".

Of even more immediate concern to the Lebanese Government and to the troops of the multinational peace-keeping force in Beirut, is the increasing conflict between Phalangist and Druze militias in the Chouf. When Israel pulls out of the area, the Lebanese Army will have to move in, but several Druze leaders have expressed their fear that their people will be massacred by the Phalangists if the Army fails to control the area.

Mr Walid Jumblatt, for example, is insisting that there must be some kind of national reconciliation to prevent

Phalangist domination of the Chouf before the Army is permitted to enter the region.

French Foreign Legionaries are scheduled to accompany the Lebanese troops into the Chouf, possibly supported by armoured reconnaissance units of the British Army's small 97-strong contingent. British officers in plain clothes and driving civilian cars have already reconnoitred the western half of the mountains.

Under present contingency plans, US Marines will deploy down the coastal highway to the Awaraj river, just north of Sidon, where Israel may soon erect an electrified fence that would stretch across the country to the Barouk mountains. This would indeed prove to be a *de facto* partition of Lebanon.

As if to emphasize the fearful problems that will face the Lebanese authorities in the Chouf, there was another fierce outbreak of fighting in the mountains during the morning. Druze militiamen fired Katyusha rockets and Grad missiles into east Beirut - the Christian sector of the capital - where several landed on the elevated highway that runs through the centre of the city, killing two men and a girl, aged seven years.

It was the Israeli Army which brought the Phalangist militia into the Chouf last summer as wartime allies. Since the autumn, Christian and Druze gunmen have carried on an orgy of kidnappings and murders. More than 400 men are believed to have been killed, many by having their throats slit after being tortured.

In the Chouf hill town of Alei yesterday, the Israelis arranged an exchange of prisoners, but the anarchy in the area was illustrated in grisly fashion when the Phalangists also turned over the remains of three kidnapped Druze - a collection of bones in blue plastic bags.

Israeli troops are expected to make a slow withdrawal from the area, handing over positions to the Lebanese on a daily basis. But the partial nature of the Israeli retreat is causing the deepest concern, not only to the Lebanese but to American diplomats in Beirut.

They believe that if the Israelis form a line along the Awaraj River, it will be impossible to persuade the Syrians to withdraw from the country. For many people in Lebanon, their nation has already shrunk to the size of a city state.

Gemayel consults US leaders

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Amin Gemayel of Lebanon, who has predicted that all foreign forces will be out of his country very soon, yesterday began his three-day working visit here with private meetings with congressional leaders.

President Gemayel, who arrived here on Tuesday, is to meet Mr George Schultz, the Secretary of State, today and President Reagan tomorrow to discuss a range of ideas aimed at getting the full withdrawal of all the Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon.

His meetings here yesterday coincided with the Israeli Government's formal decision

to order redeployment of its 25,000 troops along a new defence line in southern Lebanon.

There was no immediate comment from the State Department on the Israeli announcement, which gave no details. Mr Schultz on Tuesday evening made clear to reporters that the United States remained committed to full withdrawal of all Syrian, Israeli and Palestinian forces from Lebanon; the extension of Lebanese sovereignty throughout its territory; a strong, stable Lebanese central government; and security for Israel's northern border.

Israel has said it will withdraw all its forces from

Lebanon only if Syrian and Palestinian forces are also pulled out. But Syria has strongly condemned the recent withdrawal of Israeli troops.

Fears have been voiced in Beirut that Israeli redeployment could lead to the virtual partition of Lebanon between zones of Israeli and Syrian control. But Mr Elie Salem, the Lebanese Foreign Minister, who is accompanying President Gemayel, said last Sunday that there was no plan on behalf of either Syria or Israel to partition Lebanon or annex any part of it, and he expressed optimism that foreign forces would be withdrawn within months.

EEC attaches strings

Threat to Britain's budget rebates

From Ian Murray, Brussels

France and the European Parliament yesterday both supported a plan which could put Britain's promised budget rebates from the EEC at risk.

Finance ministers from the Community then began a marathon session - likely to continue throughout today - to try to agree two budgets to help the EEC through its financial crisis.

Rebates due to Britain are a key element in the argument, and both parliament and France want to hold them hostage against promises for reform of the Community.

One rebate is due to be paid this year in compensation for the fact that Britain paid considerably more than had been estimated in contributions last year. It amounts to around £200m and was agreed by the Council of Ministers last October.

Before the money can be paid, however, the European Parliament has to approve it and the aim has been to include it in a special budget due to be put to members of the European Parliament in September.

This special budget is necessary above all to raise the extra money needed to meet the huge bills for agriculture this year.

The Parliament yesterday suggested to finance ministers that this special budget should be cut in two, with necessary agricultural money being split off for quick agreement. This would leave all other expenditure - including the British rebate - and £5m for urban renewal in Northern Ireland - to be agreed by the Parliament in December.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, the British minister, responded

angrily to the idea. He told Mr Piet Dankert, the Parliament president, that splitting the money off in this way would be considered as a deliberate insult.

Parliament, he said, had misunderstood the situation and if there was any attempt to go back on the promise to pay the money this would be viewed with the utmost gravity in London.

December is also the date when Parliament is due to vote on the Community budget for 1984 and Britain is insisting that this should include the 450m promised to Mrs Thatcher as rebate during the European summit in Stuttgart last month.

Mr Dankert said yesterday, however, that Parliament would be ready to approve that money only if it was satisfied that the council had agreed firm guidelines for reform of the Community, including an undertaking to increase the amount of money available to the EEC budget.

The Parliamentary session is to take place immediately after EEC leaders meet in Athens at the next European summit and Mr Dankert made it very clear yesterday that Parliament would judge the results of that meeting before deciding on whether to release the rebate money.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the budget commissioner, told ministers that agricultural spending was now running 40 per cent higher than last year. If they failed to agree, the special budget then there would not be enough money to pay for the wine, fruit, vegetable and oil seed crops.

Town wants missile site

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels

A small Belgian commune has volunteered to be the site for deploying nuclear missiles. Aubry Vresse-sur-Semois in the Luxembourg province has decided to declare itself a "nuclearized town" and has asked the Belgian Government to consider it as the best for the country's 48 medium-range

cruise missiles, if it becomes necessary to deploy them.

The town made its offer because it fears that the Nato ammunition store on its territory is shortly to be closed down. This store provides around 160 precious jobs in the small commune and is an essential element



Beirut destruction: A 70-year-old woman clears rubble from her home after shelling by leftists, while a man helps his mother through the rocket-damaged Sarraha quarter, near the Foreign Ministry. Above them are portraits of President Amin Gemayel, his father and assassinated brother.

Russia acts on A-plant accident

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Pravda yesterday admitted that there had been an accident at a vital plant producing nuclear reactors and announced the formation of a new atomic energy safety commission.

The report said Mr Vladimir Dolgikh, a senior Soviet leader, had flown to Volgogradsk, not far from Rostov-on-Don, to investigate the situation and said the plant played an important part in the Soviet atomic energy programme but emphasised that the reactors and equipment it produced were not activated at the Volgogradsk site and were sent elsewhere for installation.

It was not likely that a nuclear accident involving radiation leaks had occurred at the Atomash plant, experts said. There had been the less than a mishap serious enough to warrant Politburo action and exposure in *Pravda*, which suggested that there may have been loss of life. The Atomash plant was due for completion this year but would now be delayed.

At its regular Thursday session last week, the Politburo criticized Atomash managers for "gross violations of state discipline". Mr Dolgikh, an alternate Politburo member and secretary for industrial affairs, told Volgogradsk officials that the plant would now both have to increase production and improve quality.

Pravda said the Atomash management had been censured for failing to keep the plant accident-free, and that urgent measures were being taken to put right "the consequences of mistakes".

The newspaper added that building regulations had been ignored and apartment blocks had been affected by the accident, but gave no further details.

The Soviet Union has an ambitious nuclear power programme designed to compensate for an anticipated drop in oil output at the end of the decade. Fourteen atomic plants are in operation and a further 15 are planned.

Soviet officials maintain that their nuclear installations are entirely safe, but the Volgogradsk accident suggests that some of the equipment is faulty or of poor quality, and that the Kremlin is anxious to avoid accidents in future.

● WASHINGTON: United States navy ships have leaked radiation at least 37 times since they began using nuclear reactors, contaminating coastal and inland waters of Japan, Britain and the United States on more than a dozen occasions, according to a report released by a private research group. (Reuters reports).

British woman freed from California jail

From Iver Davis, Los Angeles

Miss Gail Jennings the British woman who was sent to prison for 16 months after she knocked down and killed a teenage California cyclist, will be freed from jail today seven months early.

Miss Jennings, aged 23, from Lymington, Hampshire, has agreed to voluntary deportation and will be taken by United States Immigration authorities straight from prison to the airport, where she will board an aircraft for London.

Mr Dennis Martell, an official at the California Institute for Women in Prison, California, said: "She has been a perfect prisoner. Under our new programme, she gets one day knocked off her prison sentence for every day she worked in jail. She worked first in the jail kitchen and then in a maintenance work crew."

Miss Jennings fled America after an accident that killed Gary Sheehan, aged 13, in Redondo Beach, California. After a long legal battle, she was extradited to face charges,

End of martial law brought nearer

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Polish changes worry church

Poland came a decisive step closer to lifting martial law yesterday by approving crucial changes in its constitution. But first signs emerged that the powerful Roman Catholic Church was uneasy with some of the special measures being introduced to replace martial law restrictions.

The Sejm, the Polish Parliament, yesterday approved four changes to the constitution, the most important of which introduces a "state of emergency" clause. This would empower the Government to act against widespread political unrest or some other internal crisis without having to resort to the cumbersome device of martial law.

A second change in the constitution guarantees private farmers - the overwhelming majority in the agricultural system - the right to own land. This is intended to improve their confidence and increase agricultural investment and eventually food sales to the state.

Two other changes approved yesterday provide a constitutional role for Prol - the loose government-steered grouping dedicated to fostering dialogue - and emphasize the workers' role in Polish society.

While these moves have proceeded relatively peacefully, the special package of temporary crisis measures and permanent amendments to existing laws is more controversial. According to Catholic sources in the Sejm, the Polish episcopate has sent a letter to the Præsidium of the Parliament complaining about certain particularly restrictive clauses.

The main church objections to two proposed changes. In the first place, according to the draft of the special measures, young Poles had "a common duty to defend Poland" - which in practice meant that all Poles eligible for conscription could be allocated to the militia or other armed units, such as the Zomo riot police, instead of to the army.

The Church and many intellectuals believe that the militia, which does not enjoy a fraction of the standing of the Army, should be staffed only by those who choose to do so.

Now, according to amendments circulating in the Sejm yesterday, the whole section on military service has been dropped.

The church was also unhappy about a proposed tightening of the so-called Work Shirkers Act,

which currently obliges all males unemployed for more than three months to accept officially allocated work or else face a system of fines and, eventually, compulsory labour. The proposed tightening would have permanently excluded any mention of fines.

Now, perhaps because of the church intervention, the exclusion of fines will be a temporary measure valid only until 1985, rather than a permanently fixed part of Polish law.

The last few days have seen numerous other cases of home-trading between Communist and non-Communist deputies, with attempts being made to soften some of the impact of the special measures. Thus students can be expelled from university only if "important" Polish interests have been violated. The work "important" gives some degree of flexibility to both the authorities and the students.

A draft of the Amnesty Bill, to be considered today, confirms that most offenders under martial law will be freed, as will those who are still being investigated but have not yet been charged. However, those charged under anti-state offences - the KOR dissidents and perhaps the Solidarity leadership as well - will stay in prison.

Those in the Solidarity underground or in exile abroad who give themselves up before October 31 this year will be amnestied, providing they give a full explanation of their activities.

Some non-martial law offences will also come under the terms of the amnesty, including those committed "for political reasons or in relation to strike or protest action". Women and those under 21 will be freed.

In some cases the general prosecutor can choose to drop charges against people serving more than three years and free them. This provides and escape clause whereby, if the Government finds it opportune, it can free political dissidents like the KOR group.

Man of iron: General Wojciech Jaruzelski, Poland's military ruler, impassive yesterday being interviewed by Miss Barbara Walters of ABC television.

Police claim Orly bomb confession

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Varadjan Garibidjian, aged 29, the presumed leader of the anti-Armenian Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA) in France, is said by the Government to have admitted responsibility for the terrorist bomb attack at Orly airport last Friday, in which six people died and 36 were injured. He is one of 11 Armenian activists being held by police.

The news, which was announced yesterday by M Max Gallo, the government spokesman, came as a surprise, as it had previously been thought that none of the terrorists directly involved in the Orly attack was among the 36 Armenians rounded up by the police in a dawn raid on Monday.

Mr Garibidjian's arrest is seen

as a big coup for the police and intelligence services. But the Government is being careful this time not to "blow its trumpet too loudly".

It had its fingers badly burnt last August with the affair of the three Irish people who were described by the Elysee Palace as important international terrorists. It now seems that police planted false evidence to secure the arrests.

There is some suspicion about the scale and swiftness of the police success in the latest affair. The arrest of more than 50 people within two days of the attack suggested that police investigations were already well under way before the attack occurred, and some observers are wondering whether the disaster could have been avoided if the police had acted sooner.

Of those originally arrested, 11, including three women, are still being held in police custody. They were seen by the examining magistrate for the first time yesterday and are expected to be charged with murder, attempted murder, attack on public security, destruction by explosives, membership of a criminal organization, and illegal possession of arms and explosives.

● LAUSANNE: The second Armenian World Conference, which opened yesterday, will try to offer the Armenian cause a "third option" besides apathy and violence, according to the Rev James Karnusian, the organizer (AFP reports).

Pretoria tightens controls on Lesotho border

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Large numbers of Basutos trying to enter South Africa from Maseru, the capital of Lesotho, were turned back yesterday by South African customs officials, in the first sign of the intensified border controls forecast last Friday by Mr P. W. Botha the South African Foreign Minister.

Mr Botha's warning came as tension rose after the Lesotho authorities had detained a black South African policeman and the South Africans had seized a member of the Lesotho Paramilitary Force, who had allegedly crossed illegally into South Africa.

Two British nationals were also deported from Lesotho last week after being accused of spying for an unnamed foreign power, by implication South Africa. Their mission was allegedly to discover the whereabouts of exiled African National Congress personnel in Lesotho.

Relations between Pretoria and Lesotho, a mountainous enclave of some 11,800 square miles surrounded by South Africa, have been very tense since the raid last December by South African commandos on alleged ANC "nests" in Maseru. More than 40 people were killed, 12 of them innocent Lesotho civilians.

Chief Leabua Jonathan, Lesotho's Prime Minister, has repeatedly stated that he harbours no ANC bases, but he also insists on Lesotho's right to provide a haven under the United Nations Charter for South African refugees, including ANC members.

Chief Jonathan has also upset the South Africans by a more assertively independent foreign policy. During a tour of communist countries earlier this year, he invited the Soviet Union, China, North Korea, Yugoslavia and Romania to open embassies in Maseru. At the same time diplomatic ties with Taiwan and South Korea were severed.

Germans speed up ban on lead in petrol

Bonn (AP) - After failing to bring about European agreement, the Cabinet of Chancellor Helmut Kohl yesterday endorsed plans to make unleaded petrol and catalytic converters compulsory in West Germany after January 1, 1986.

"The Chancellor does not want to act along the convoy system, which has the slowest dictate the speed", a government spokesman said. This was an obvious reference to objections by European community countries like Italy and France, who oppose the move because they consider it too expensive for their motorists.

Industry sources estimate the catalytic converters will make petrol engine cars more expensive by about £250. Diesel engines do not need converters.

Soldiers given jail terms

Episkopi, Cyprus (AP) - Two British soldiers found guilty of beating another British serviceman to death with a wooden plank during a drunken midnight brawl were jailed for five and three years respectively by a special court.

Brian Francis Giff, aged 21, of Greenock, was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and his comrade, Campbell McCabe, aged 18, of Port Glasgow, for three years. Both are privates in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Birdwatchers must stay

Istanbul (AP) - A judge has ordered two British birdwatchers, suspected of violating a restricted border area, to remain in Turkey pending a security investigation.

Mr Simon Albrecht of Cambridge and Dennis Buisson of Luton spent 18 days in jail in the small coastal town of Enes before their release on bail on June 24, on suspicion of trespassing and taking snapshots in a military zone.

South Africa's black stamp

Johannesburg (Reuters) - A black face appeared for the first time on a South African postage stamp yesterday.

One of a series of four stamps featuring South African sports shows two soccer players, one black and one white vying for the ball.

Insanity plea

Los Angeles (Reuters) - Marvin Panoosian, aged 33, an unemployed clerk, pleaded not guilty due to insanity to the murder of a 26-year-old actress, Vicki Morgan, who has been named in a sex films case involving US political figures.

Dented goodwill

Brisbane (Reuters) - The US nuclear-powered cruiser Texas went to sea yesterday with a large dent in its stern after hitting a wharf. Unions had refused to man tugs in protest against the ship's goodwill visit to Brisbane.

Pilot's ordeal

Jakarta (Reuters) - Captain Quentin Fikse, a 35-year-old Dutch pilot, survived for eight days adrift in a rubber boat in the Java Sea after he force-landed his helicopter in the ocean, a spokesman for his company said.

Friars jailed

Vienna (AP) - A Czechoslovak court has sentenced two Franciscan friars to six and eight months in prison for violating restrictions on church activities. Austria's Roman Catholic news agency Kathpress reported.

Seguel freed

Santiago (Reuters) - Señor Rodolfo Seguel, leader of Chile's copper workers and the protest movement against the military Government of President Pinochet, has been freed on bail after more than a month in jail.

Volcano erupts

Jakarta (Reuters) - Colo volcano in eastern Indonesia erupted yesterday for the second time in three days and local officials said more than 4,000 people have been evacuated from Unaua Island.

Kidnappers set midnight ultimatum

Rome (AP) - The alleged kidnappers of a Vatican employee's daughter threatened to kill her if the Turkish terrorist who shot the Pope was not freed by midnight last night.

The ultimatum came at almost the same time as the Pope offered a public prayer for the fourth time for 15-year-old Emanuela Orlandi, who disappeared on June 22 after leaving flute lessons in Rome.

An anonymous caller to the Italian news agency Ansa said the girl was still alive but that time was running out for the release of Mehmet Ali Agca, who is serving a life sentence for the shooting of the Pope in May 1981. He has dissociated himself from the girl's case, demanding that she be set free.

Ansa said the message was first telephoned to a Rome church by a man with a foreign accent and then was repeated to the news agency by another man who sounded Italian.



Ladislav Lis, a prominent campaigner for human rights in Czechoslovakia, who stands trial today at Ceska Lipa, northern Bohemia. A spokesman for the Charter '77 group, Mr Lis was arrested in January and charged with "incitement against the socialist system", which could mean three years' imprisonment.

Awarded a medal for his service in the anti-Nazi resistance, Mr Lis rose in the Communist Party to become Prague committee secretary under the Dubcek Government but was expelled for opposing the 1968 invasion.

Sri Lanka widens press censorship

From Donovan Moldrich, Colombo

The Government yesterday imposed local and foreign press censorship on all news about national security, law and order, essential supplies, and incitement to mutiny, riot or civil commotion.

This measure followed the introduction of censorship on matters relating to the universities and higher education after student unrest at Peradeniya University.

The terrorist problem yesterday was attended by representatives of the ruling United National Party and the Ceylon Workers' Congress, a component of the present Government, and it was decided to postpone discussions and widen their scope to include all problems facing the Tamil minority.

The Tamil United Liberation Front, the Communist Party and the people's United Front had indicated their willingness

to attend broad-based discussions, but Mrs Sirima Bandaranaike's Freedom Party declined to attend any talks, and instead issued a statement listing various atrocities allegedly committed by the ruling party.

A government spokesman yesterday described the Freedom Party statement as baseless and "nothing more than a red herring".

THE ARTS

'The theatrical composer is now emerging as the equal if not the dominant partner of the design team': Irving Wardle explains

How music plays a starring part

As I have made ye one, lords, one remain:
So I grow stranger, you more honour gain.

That is Henry VIII ticking off his quarrelsome council, but it could equally be an RSC or National Theatre director addressing a meeting of production associates. Since the director achieved sovereignty of our classical stage, there has been much upward mobility among those who help to keep him enthroned. Designers of sets, costume and lighting may still be underpaid, but they are no longer undervalued; and, as the director's stock has risen, so they have been promoted from technicians into self-respecting fellow artists.

The one outsider has been the theatrical composer: a lowly figure plodding round his accustomed treadmill while his more favoured colleagues have been cutting a dash with computerized switchboards, visible lighting rigs and eye-catching new materials. If a director shifts *Measure for Measure* to the Caribbean, or *Much Ado to Imperial India*, it is through his designers that you get the message. Nobody has looked to the composer for that kind of insight. The quantity of music in any show might vary from a few songs and fanfares to the complete score. Guy Woolfenden wrote for Trevor Nunn's 1976 *Comedy of Errors*, but in either case the role of the music was that of docile handmaiden.

Given the operative inclinations of so many British directors, this makes a curiously belittling attitude to stage music; and, whether through a change of policy or the arrival of new talent, it now seems to be on the way out. Particularly at the RSC, the composer is now emerging as an equal if not dominant partner of the design team; and if this process continues we are going to see a major upheaval in the vocabulary of classical production.

I first became aware that something new was going on in 1978, with Peter Gill's Riverside productions of *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Changeling*, both with music by George Fenton and both played on an almost bare stage. Gill's designers (William Dudley and Liz da Costa) had reduced their settings to the choice of an appropriate texture - a pine back wall for *Cherry*, a stone-lagged floor for *Changeling* - but, thanks to the music, the scenic impact was nothing short of sumptuous.

In *The Cherry Orchard* it expanded the action to the whole of the Ranevsky

house, with chains of dancers crossing the drawing-room into the adjoining rooms, the Jewish band mingling with the sound of offstage conversation and the click of billiard cues from behind the audience's backs.

Likewise, in *The Changeling*, a Renaissance palace sprang up from that bare stone floor at the thunderous summons of a Monteverdi-like brass consort. It was not the usual kind of fanfare. Mr Fenton's work differed in two ways from run-of-the-mill theatre music. It integrated composition with sound design; and, whenever music was given sole command of the stage, it rose to the challenge with symphonic self-assertiveness.

Since then, other composers have been claiming their theatrical rights, and the term "incidental music" is coming to sound as anomalous as "incidental scenery". Notable examples include Stephen Oliver's baroque opera treatment of *As You Like It* and Harrison Birtwistle's parallel score for the National Theatre's *Orestes*. In the present Stratford production of *A New Way to Pay Old Debts* Colin Sell's music not only acts as a cheeky commentator but swaps saucy backchat with the company as a dramatic character in its own right.

Among those now active in the British theatre, the composer who comes closest to this ideal is Irena Sekacz, a half-Polish Lancastrian who embarked on her career as a 12-year-old leader of the Blackpool Youth Orchestra and who now completes her first year at the RSC with three main-house shows - *King Lear*, *Twelfth Night* and *Henry VIII*.

Twelfth Night was the first I saw; and, if ever a production declared its purpose from the outset, it was in the great wave of melancholy sea music that engulfed the image of Orsino's love shrine. *Henry VIII* similarly took its character and tempo from her brightly aggressive pastiche-Weill, played by a casually dressed band who finally drifted on stage to join the loyally cheering Elizabethans. As for *Lear*, I doubt whether anyone who saw Adrian Noble's production will ever forget the infernal chorus that heralded the storm clouds, like a Miltonic pandemonium of lost souls.

For this effect, Miss Sekacz deployed a choir in the wings working under a "storm captain": a group of players in the bandbox (three levels down from the

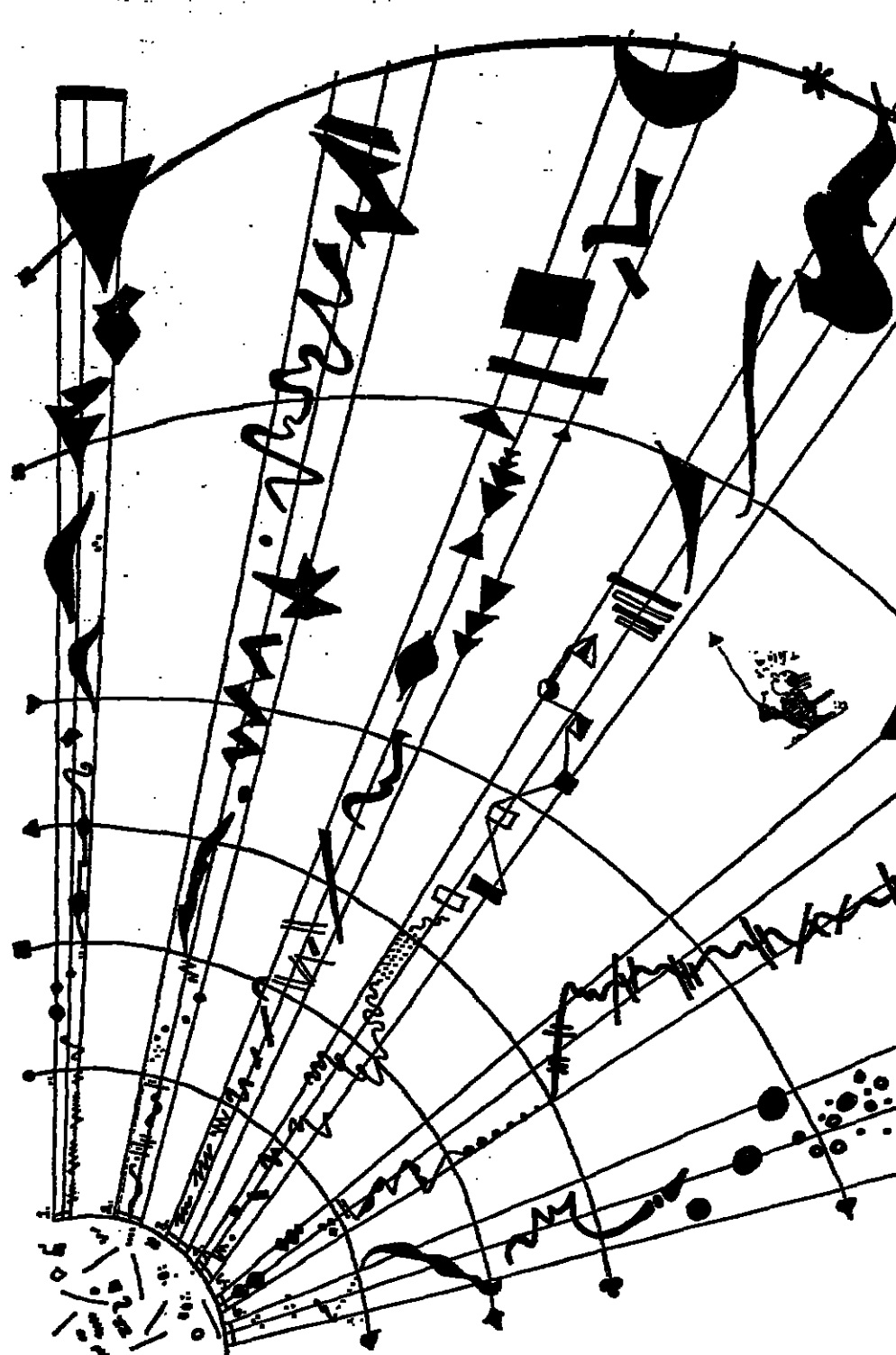
stage, needless to say, at the Barbican); a junk percussion ensemble of scaffolding poles and kitchen sinks; and the taped storm itself, with every thunderclap created from distorted recordings of *Lear*, the Fool and Gloucester shouting or screaming into a grand piano with the damper pedal down. "I had the image," she says, "of formal court music disintegrating in the storm. It begins with formal chord structures. Then the brass starts melting."

Access to such resources is a novelty for Miss Sekacz. I first spotted her name over ten years ago at a fairy-tale show by the Black Theatre of Brighton; the music was great, but all you could see of the player was a hand rising over a pile of instruments to pick a violin or a chime-bar. Early in the 1970s she joined the Unicorn Theatre as resident composer, and combined writing music with making instruments (eg. an autoharp restrung as a saxophone) to perform it. The factor that marked her out, then, as now, as a true theatrical artist was her total lack of compositional vanity. Conventional forms are at her finger-tips whenever she needs them; but she rarely writes pieces, and often you are barely conscious of hearing her music at all. What happens is that the dramatic temperature rises or falls as if in a direct transaction between the actors and the audience. The music is so precise an atmospheric barometer that it can become inaudible.

She describes her approach to the job as "conceptual". "It's a question of finding a framework: getting a sound image for the play and staying faithful to it. I also have the sense that music is bigger than the characters, as if it's above, commenting and detached, like a cloud, or god, casting shadows over the stage."

When it comes down to detail, this can mean effects as elaborate as the *Lear* storm or the sophisticated electronics of the *Twelfth Night* sea music (created with the aid of a "Fairlight", a recording keyboard which will pick up any sound and endow it with pitch).

Alternatively it can mean Miss Sekacz doing her own whistling to zither accompaniment (as in Chichester's *A Patriot for Me*) or getting non-music-reading actors to make music through her self-devised system of graphic notation. Either way, it would be hard to exaggerate the liberation and enrichment she has brought to the RSC in the past year.



"The babble of humanity" - part of Irena Sekacz's sound-score for Strindberg's *Dream Play* in her self-devised notation

Jazz

Charting the unknown

VSOP II
Festival Hall

It is a Sugar Ray Leonard kind of jazz that they play, celebrating courage, athleticism and machismo but with skill and brains and a highly developed sense of beauty. It has crisp, solid punches and precise combinations executed with such speed that they deserve the slow-motion analysis of an action replay.

VSOP II revises the music of the Miles Davis Quintet of the middle 1960s. In this edition the original rhythm section, the most sophisticated such unit that jazz has ever produced, is joined by the trumpet and saxophones of the two Marsalis brothers, Wynton and Branford, who were aged respectively one and two years when, exactly two decades ago, Davis grouped behind him the pianist Herbie Hancock, the bassist Ron Carter and the drummer Tony Williams.

Wynton and Branford have a handle on the music, possessing technical means superior to those of Davis and the original quintet's saxophonist, Wayne Shorter. Some observers are worried by their blatant traditionalism, feeling that youngsters should be working on their own moves, but the Marsalis prove that there is mileage in this music still.

They played for 90 minutes on Tuesday night at an awesome level of invention, occasionally touching the summit. When Hancock fed grease-dipped funk chords behind the first chorus of Wynton's solo in "Well, You Needn't", the trumpeter's intuitive response provoked a hair-raising tension: the same tune found Branford at his best, moving away from the influence of Shorter and John Coltrane to produce a tenor saxophone passage which, in its architectural and orchestral philosophy, bore the stamp of an original.

Carter produced a lengthy solo in which time and pitch were dizzyingly and sometimes humorously warped; Hancock was marvellously supportive throughout; and Williams was outrageously superb, soloing in his preferred manner, against a piano and bass ostinato, with a glittering brilliance and the kind of integrity which permitted him at one point to change his mind and alter the course of the improvisation in mid-stroke. Drummers usually make up their minds before they set out: this one is part of a group which is still charting the unknown.

Richard Williams

Nureyev Festival

Coliseum

For the final week of this year's Nureyev Festival, he and Ballet Théâtre Français are presenting a varied four-part programme. The main feature is *Miss Julie*, in which Nureyev has never danced before in London. Birgit Cullberg's ballet has held the boards for more than 30 years, chiefly because of the chances it gives for strong characterization. The choreography is boldly expressive, not particularly subtle. Ture Rangström's

music is dire, old-fashioned and repetitive, and Sven Erixson's designs are mediocre. So the dancing had better be good - and it is.

Nureyev, more than anyone else I have seen as Jean, brings out the class differences that underlie the relationships. This valet can put on airs with the other servants, especially the girls who flock round him, but with Miss Julie, his manners range from servility through dumb insolence to a smug triumph. For the first part of the week he has had Eva Evdokimova as Miss Julie, providing a forceful contrast, in standing,

confidence and motivation, even if she has not developed the role as richly as seemed likely when she first tackled it a few years back.

Except for Angelito Lozano, miscast as the fiancé, the supporting cast maintains a good level, with Françoise Dubuc giving the bible-punching Kristin an apt priggish respectability.

Nureyev's other role in this programme is in the *Song of a Wayfarer* that Bejart made for him. He knows how to shape every nuance of this piece for maximum emotional effect, and makes the most of the sharp,

almost fierce quality of Patrick Armand in the other role to provide a sounding-board for his own performance. Although still in his teens, I believe, Armand offers a better foil to Nureyev in this work than anyone else except Anthony Dowell.

It was a miscalculation, however, to put both Nureyev's roles at the end of the programme on Tuesday, with BTF's own two offerings one after the other to start the programme. That way, contrast was lost and the rhythm of the evening suffered. Best, I suspect, to have started with

Symphony in D and held *Songs without Words* until after *Wayfarer*: all the works would have benefited.

The French company do both their Dutch ballets well: in Jiri Kylian's comic work to Haydn, they bring off all the jokes with a light-footed deftness, and they find a poetic stylizedness for Hans van Manen's Mendelssohn ballet. Pascale Mossemans brings a sensitive humour to both works. There are others I would praise if I could identify them, and the ensemble is nicely balanced.

John Percival

Theatre

Cabaret artist at point-blank range

Donald Cooper

Every Inch a Lady

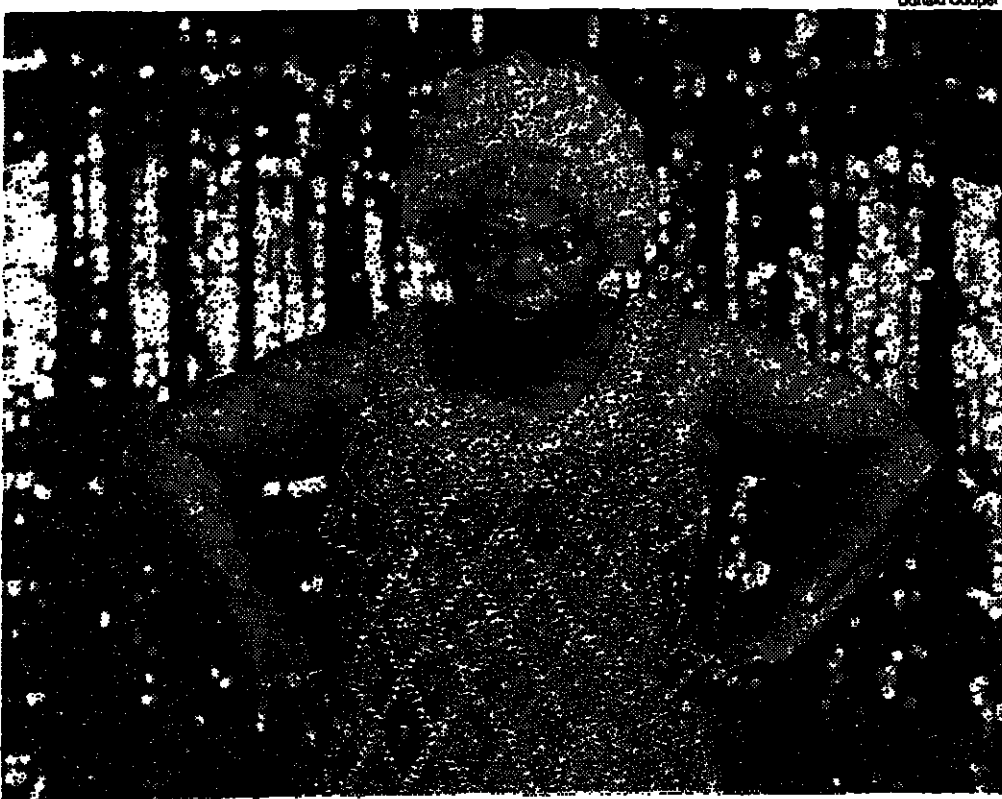
King's Head

Bertice Reading first trod these boards three years ago in *Back up all your ears and nose*, and that show's fans should lose no time in speeding along to view the sequel.

Admittedly, you get rather less for your money, as *Every Inch a Lady* offers fewer songs, fewer instrumentalists and fewer dresses. However, Miss Reading is prepared to clamber into a matronly tutu and engage Wayne Sleep to choreograph two minutes of the sugar plum fairy, and, as for the backing, nobody is going to feel short-changed in the presence of Jules Ruben, a superbly resourceful jazz pianist, who can cover prolonged exits, swap Astor Club reminiscences with the star and switch from the boudoir grand to a melodion without the smallest dislocation of melodic invention or cross-rhythms.

The only lukewarm customers are likely to be those, like me, who prefer encountering Miss Reading at long range as a singing actress rather than point-blank as a cabaret artist. It may have something to do with her gospel-singing physique, but the combination of those huge popping eyes, top notes to drown a brass section and hard-selling line on love gives the evening the quality of an evangelistic rally, where accusing looks are apt to turn on you if you fail to clap along.

With such capacity to overpower her spectators, Miss Reading only fitfully makes



The overpowering capacity of Bertice Reading

contact with them. When she does, they eat gratefully out of her hand. "Here we all work on the Mississippi," she growls, tugging a snagged microphone lead towards the upstage screen for her next costume change. But not much in the show has the ring of ad lib spontaneity, and - as in her last programme - she is still ordering people to

"get your foot off my stage". Her singing, as ever, is ecstatically whole-hearted, and at once savage and fastidiously precise: it is easy to believe her when she says it is her life. For my taste, there are too many pounding hymns to love in proportion to the songs where her sense of comedy and her sense of rhythm get a chance.

Irving Wardle

Concert

LSO/Kubelik

Barbican

It would be wrong to pretend that Mozart's church music, with a couple of exceptions, shows anything like the originality or the commitment of Haydn's: it falls into established forms, and serves its purpose faithfully, without fuss. But now and again something wonderful floats to the surface through the sea of convention: at the climax of Tuesday's splendid Mozart concert by the LSO, the splendid orchestra and Chorus under Rafael Kubelik, the powerful C major

affirmations and noisy rhythms of the choir in the "Coronation" Mass dissolved into an Angus Dei for solo soprano which carried a feeling of pure rapture rarely encountered in Mozart's more ambiguous secular music.

There was little that was extraordinary in the music, but Kubelik shaped it with such infinite care (even though he used quite brusque, jabbing gestures), and Edith Mathis sang it with such perfect, natural control, that it was transformed. Earlier there had been memorable moments as the choir's unearthly "Et exspecto" overture's coda but not that

superb sense of drama which can be conjured up in the C minor Mass or the Requiem. Kubelik's relationship with the LSO has clearly deepened over the past couple of weeks. There was some beautifully precise playing in the "Coronation" Mass - winding oboe solos linking the rousings of the Kyrie and careful, dry pizzicato in the Agnus Dei - and, in the first half, there were invigorating accounts of the *Magic Flute* Overture and the "Jupiter" Symphony.

I am not convinced that Mozart sounds better with an orchestra this big, but if it is to be played thus then Kubelik's

approach, sweeping the phrases along but making sure that all manner of detail emerges, is ideal.

The "Jupiter" slow movement attained a massive, almost Brucknerian sense of mystery; the minuet - oddly pre-echoed in the "Hosanna" of the Mass - was exceptionally clean, and danced delightfully; the finale, though unforgotten for its considerable verve, even though his technique did not always conquer the rapid, repeated notes of the "Taranella" and a rigidity of rhythm failed to convey the spirit of the "Gondoliers". Indeed, in all the works he played, Mr Jones needed to think more carefully about his response to the music.

Nicholas Kenyon

London debuts

Routine gestures

The Canadian tenor John Martens enterprisingly chose a programme slightly off the beaten track, offering songs by Finzi and Britten in addition to his Wolf and Schubert groups. However, these stylistically diverse works emerged with a curious sameness, for Mr Martens had a fairly narrow expressive and tonal range.

The voice itself is powerful and pleasing on the ear; it is well articulated and clearly focused. But in tackling something like Britten's *Seven Sonnets of Michelangelo* Mr Martens needs to find a more assertive character, and in Wolf's songs he should develop a keener sense of the music's sentiment and avoid routine vocal gestures. He seemed most at ease in Finzi's Thomas Hardy settings and in the slight, unproblematic but charming songs by the Winnipeg composer Chester Duncan, but in his concluding Schubert group he appeared tired and tense.

The pianist Michael Jones also chose an unusual programme, but this scarcely disguised the fact that he was not really on form for his London debut. His programme note raised high hopes, for it mentioned that he had made a special study of the works of Medtner, an entirely welcome nod to a composer who is unjustly neglected these days. But Mr Jones's account of the *Canzona matinata* and *Sonata tragica* from Op 39 was doggedly literal and, though marked by dedication and affection, had little flair or spontaneity.

His Fauré group was similarly wanting in individual interpretational thoughts, and although it was an interesting idea to play Casella's *A notte alla*, the performance was weakly characterized if cleanly executed. However, he attacked Liszt's *Venezia e Napoli* with considerable verve, even though his technique did not always conquer the rapid, repeated notes of the "Taranella" and a rigidity of rhythm failed to convey the spirit of the "Gondoliers". Indeed, in all the works he played, Mr Jones needed to think more carefully about his response to the music.

Geoffrey Norris

Television

Sentimental satire

The *Beggar's Opera* (Channel 4) has for some reason been moved into the mid-nineteenth century by the National Theatre, although I suppose it is a period that exerts a peculiar fascination for theatrical people after the success of *Nicholas Nickleby*. Perhaps the wardrobe department hired the old costumes.

John Gay's opera is in many ways a very harsh affair, and contains a thesaurus of abuse against women in particular: poor Polly Peachum was called a baggage, jade, slut, whore and hussy in the space of five minutes. And that was just the opinion of her parents. But this combination of rough demotic and pretty songs is always a potent one; this was a pastiche of the gutter, a satire filled with sentiment.

The production was especially arranged for Channel 4, and the great advantage of televised drama is the fact that the camera can move faster and more freely than an audience; we get something more subtle and fluid than a conventional stage performance. The only problem is that *The Beggar's Opera* itself is not a very subtle work - Gay had a certain amount of trouble getting characters on and off the stage, and when he is not being witty he is often banal. Videotape tended to emphasize such flaws, although it must have seemed a good idea, at the time to play

Macheath's putative hanging in slow motion.

The actors seemed to be enjoying themselves, though - but, then, that is what they are paid to do. Lots of cheap emotion was thrown across the stage in buckets, and even the jades and whores became drenched in it. Paul Jones played Macheath: he looked convincing, like a bull gone out to pasture, and his voice would have stopped a stagecoach dead in its tracks. June Watson was particularly good as Mrs Peachum.

In any case, everyone loves a good melodrama, especially when it can be vaguely associated with "literature". But *The Beggar's Opera* still has enough life to attract even a television audience. And who could forget the wonderful song towards the end of the play, when the melody of "Greensleeves" is matched to a sombre meditation on Tyburn Tree?

Peter Ackroyd

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SPECTRUM

Running through the red tape

Peter Snell of New Zealand was 26 when, in the Tokyo Olympics of 1964, he achieved the unique distinction in modern times of winning both 800 metres and 1500 metres gold medals - at the same age as Sebastian Coe now, on the eve of the AAA Championships this weekend and the imminent, inaugural World Championships in Helsinki next month. Through circumstances wholly outside his control and which are a discredit to the administration of British athletics, Coe has been forced to abandon the ambition of emulating Snell in Helsinki.

That he has done so says as much about him as the extraordinary catalogue of world records and medals on the track over the past four years. Calmly to walk away from your objective, even if only half of it, on a question of integrity, at the dress rehearsal stage after months of daily, tortured, anonymous training, requires a rare objectivity in one of the most subjective of all sports. At the summit, most sports are intensely selfish, almost by definition.

Yet it was when, amid the continuing controversy over the 1500 metres selection for Helsinki, Coe woke up this week to headlines such as "Coe reprieved" (*Daily Mail*) and "Selectors accused of bias" (*The Times*) that he decided his reputation took precedence over his ambition, and told the selectors unequivocally that his wish to be considered for both events was withdrawn.

He had already been selected for the 800, the distance at which he holds the world record but has so far frustratingly failed, not necessarily through any inherent racing frailty, to win a major title: in the European Championships of Prague ('78) and Athens ('82) and the Moscow Olympics ('80).

For this reason, the 800 has always been his priority in Helsinki, yet right up to the moment of his withdrawal on Tuesday night Coe and his coach, his father Peter, were confident of his capacity to challenge, as in Moscow, at both distances. As he said yesterday, having shocked both officials and public by his decision: "If I had not considered I was capable of running better than all the other contenders for the 1500 (Steve Ovett, Graham Williamson and Steve Cram) I would have pulled out earlier. It is a fact which most officials and journalists do not understand, that athletes performing at my level set higher standards for themselves than anybody else. I have been put in an impossible position by the public debate, by the impression created that I was receiving favours, and I feel morally obliged to deny myself the chance of the double, even though I honestly think that chance is no less than in Moscow."

It was that combination of perfectionism and mental resilience that allowed Coe to consider himself the probable winner of both distances in Moscow beforehand and, when he had misjudged a slow 800 to finish second, rebound to take the 1500. Yet he has been conscious that, in spite of two 800 victories in the Europa Cup and another in the 1981 World Cup and in spite of his blaze of four world records in the same year, making a total of eight, his failure in Athens last summer when plagued by injury and then illness, has left a justifiable doubt in the public mind about his racing ability. Although he takes cover publicly behind a largely deferential attitude, he is in fact as sensitive and proud of his performance as an Olympic star every time he goes on stage. He has delayed an original intention to move up to 5,000 metres this year solely to try to put the history books straight in the 800, at which his world record of 1 min 41.72 secs is a remarkable 15 metres faster than the 1977 record of Alberto Juantorena of Cuba, double Olympic winner at 400 and 800 in 1976.



The Times Profile: Sebastian Coe

For Coe personally, not to win the 800 in Helsinki will be akin to Lauda failing his civilian driving test, so the pressure from within was already considerable before the row developed over whether he, and also Ovett, should be supported by the British board in wishing to contest both events, given that Williamson and European champion Cram were also world class candidates for the restricted three places. The cynical will now be asking whether the decision to withdraw is in fact a cop-out, following his defeat in his last two 1500 races in Paris and at Crystal Palace last week, but that would be to misunderstand the background and the man.

Of course he was hurt by the defeats. The only protection for the superstar from the ferocious pressure of being under the public microscope - something of which Williamson and Cram as yet know almost nothing compared to Ovett and Coe - is the carapace of continual victory. Defeated, the champion is suddenly as vulnerable and disregarded as the leader of the wolf pack.

Yet Coe has openly faced the press in defeat, and last Friday himself projected the possibility of exclusion from the Helsinki 1500 by the selectors. It is true that the two defeats had temporarily undermined him, had made him wonder if he still retained the flowing, explosive finishing speed of 1980-81. However, he had been running against a background of a strained stomach muscle, unknown to anyone but Peter, and retarding his training, plus an ankle injury sustained jumping out of the way of a dog in training and requiring daily physiotherapy. These mitigating factors, never stressed in the selection issue, together with the knowledge that his training schedules, by comparison with which an actual race is a holiday, were more impressive than ever, suggested to the Coes that their bid for both titles was not only justifiable but realistic.

As one of the selection committee has said to me last weekend: "If either

Coe or Ovett is capable of doubling up, it would be irresponsible not to allow it", while Coe has said that "without overstatement, I'm reasonably confident, even though this has to be measured against an assessment that the standard in Helsinki will be higher than Moscow". His ambition was to win the race, not just to win selection, though Peter had conceded that "it's always possible an athlete can have gone back after the kind of hiatus suffered last summer". The complication for father and son is that, compared with 1980 or 1981, the preparation this year is late: Coe is at present still engaged upon improving sessions in training that were completed in June in previous years, now aiming for a single peak.

'None of them considered I was certain to finish in front of any of the other three candidates.'

What is also different is that he has joined Walker and others before him, in that he is the man to beat. "Every time you step on the track, someone else in the field is regarding it as their race of the year". Yet even before the selection fiasco, Coe had stated "Whatever I feel about the selectors' ultimate decision is unimportant - I have accepted it if I'm excluded and not waste mental energy questioning it, though I would want to look at the result in Helsinki afterwards and ask if they had been correct".

The British Board is a typically well-intentioned but amorphous sports body, loaded with vested interests, financial pressures and, traditionally, lack of real understanding and intelli-

gent communication with the athletes over whom it presides. In 1964 the Olympic team nearly went on strike, team managers have been known to wish athletes good luck half an hour after they finished competing, and in 1979, Coe was almost refused permission to go to the Oslo meeting at which he broke his first world record.

It is one of the less desirable anomalies of the present controversy that the team manager, who has openly lobbied the press against the principal of doubling up, and also advised the selectors against it, is Andy Norman, long time adviser of Ovett. Even a neutral observer might conclude that Ovett would be content to see Coe excluded from the 1500.

What was deplorable about the weekend meeting was the premature announcement to the press agencies by the general secretary, Nigel Cooper, who sometimes gives the unfortunate impression of someone marking examination papers while referring to the wrong set of questions, of the names for the 1500 (Ovett, Williamson and Cram), which was subsequently withdrawn in an embarrassed flurry in mid-afternoon on Sunday. There is conflicting evidence of the sequence of events: some selectors say the "no doubling up" principle was on the table overnight, others that the decision was final. One of them told me: "The muddle is appalling, but doesn't surprise me. I believe Coe is capable of running both events, but we debated whether it was our duty to protect athletes from their own ambitions in world championships where the standards and the pressures will be enormous."

It is the fact that seemingly not one of the eight selectors was initially prepared to back him for a place in both races that most hurt Coe's pride, more than it becoming public knowledge. As he reflects, it means that "the bottom line was that none of them considered I was certain to finish in front of any of the other three candidates". One of the selectors has



SEBASTIAN COE

born London September 29 1956

- 1977 Three Commonwealth and one UK records at 800m
- 1978 Two UK and one Commonwealth record at 800m
- August 31: European Championships, bronze medal, 800m
- 1979 Three world records in 41 days: July, 3 Oslo, 800m; July, 17 Oslo, mile; August, 15 Zurich, 1500m
- July: world record 1000m
- July: Moscow Olympics silver medal in 800m (gold: Steve Ovett)
- gold medal in 1500m, pictured above (silver: Ovett)
- 31 February: world record, 800m
- June: world record, 800m
- July: world record, 1000m
- August 19: world record, mile
- August 28: world record, mile
- September 4: World Cup, Rome, winner, 800m
- 82 shared world record, 800m relay
- August: European Championships, silver medal, 800m
- 83 world indoor record, 800m

admitted to me they may have been hiding behind the matter of principle on doubling up, but believes they should have stood by their decision. Nevertheless, on Tuesday afternoon Coe finally decided he was "not going to be accused any more of bitching up other people's racing plans". If he could run the 1500 last Friday, why did Cram, the loudest protestor, choose instead to run in meaningless 800 metres?

It is possible, of course, that Coe - and Ovett if he still attempts both, though he has yet to achieve the 800 qualifying time - was biting off more than he could chew. The level of opposition in Helsinki will be formidable and, more ominously, comparatively untested in match-racing conditions. Joaquim Cruz, a young Brazilian, crushed by Coe in the 1981 World Cup in Rome, has run within a metre of Coe's world-best 800 time this year of 1:43.80, while Said Aouita, a French-sponsored Moroccan who has been training at altitude in Mexico, shot into prominence a few weeks ago.

Coe's present retreat from public slanging could prove with hindsight to have been prudent as well as dignified, even if not motivated as some will continue to suspect by self-doubt. His task is now simplified. He will run Saturday's invitation mile to show he is as good as ever, and whatever anyone does in the Helsinki 1500, we may be sure that a week or so later he will go to Zurich of Rome and attempt to rupture the world record at that distance - the only one of four between 800 and a mile which he does not at present hold. Ovett does. In the most fundamental of human sports, Coe is still undecided which he regards as the more rewarding exhilaration - medals or records - as the compensation for upwards of 300 days a year devotional dedication. As he has said: "The real motivation now, far more than medals or records, is the satisfaction of the continuing experiment with Peter, the endless quest for improvement. Perfection is always just around the corner". It is that quest which enabled him this week to step aside from a nasty domestic squabble of others' making.

David Miller

moreover... Miles Kington

His job is writing people off

Our great series: People who do very unusual jobs indeed

Number 11: A man who kills off characters in long-running serials on television

"It's a funny thing, but a scriptwriter who can handle divorce, punch-ups, betrayal, depression or anything bad like that often finds it hard to deal with death. So when a character has to be written out for one reason or another, they send for me, and I write the scene or episode. I sometimes feel like the public hangman."

He looks very well on it. George Danson has been killing off people now for 15 years, armed only with a typewriter, and he has enjoyed every minute of it. Sometimes it's because the actor involved has had an unfortunate court case, sometimes it's because he has died and very often it's simply because he wants to leave the series, but whatever it is, he has to be bumped off somehow.

"Usually I don't know the character involved very well, so he or she doesn't mean much to me, whereas to the resident scriptwriter it's a close friend. Not to mention a cushy billet. I remember one character in a television series who had to be got rid of because the actress wanted to emigrate - a real Tartar, a boarding-house landlady who gave everyone a hard time and was consequently the most popular person in the show."

"Well, the permanent scriptwriter refused to kill her off - he really loved her, because it's much more fun writing slugging-off dialogue than anything else - and when he heard that I was being called in, he went mental. He started turning in scripts in which all the other characters were meeting a horrible end. Couldn't use them, of course. We even had a meeting one night in which somebody seriously suggested bumping off the scriptwriter. Reality and fiction tend to blur after a while."

"What? Oh, the actress solved everything by having a fatal heart attack. Though I sometimes wonder if the TV company wasn't behind it."

What's the best way of disposing of unwanted characters?

"Off-stage, unfortunately. Car crash or accident abroad. The other characters hear the news, stagger around a bit. 'My God, how awful, oh no I can't believe it! Same as Greek tragedy basically, except the Greeks did go on about it. More than we do. Personally, I'd prefer to have a few on-screen deaths - spectacular collapse at party, harrowing suicide, savaged to death by Rod Hull and Ennu, that sort of thing - but the public can't take it. Usually the actor isn't available by then, anyway."

"What I'd really like to do is use a few of the deaths that happen in real life, blokes found dangling from Blackfriars Bridge, people struck by lightning on clear days and so on, but I can't. Know why? Because people wouldn't believe it, that's why. Funny old thing, death."

Isn't his job peculiarly modern and sadly in tune with our times? "No way. It's one of the oldest jobs in the world. I bet Shakespeare got someone in to deal with Falstaff, because he couldn't bear to do it himself. And think of Sherlock Holmes, who not only had to be written out but written back in again, due to popular demand. I sometimes have to do that, make characters emigrate to America or run off with someone, in case they're needed back later. Like in the Bible."

Pardon? "Well, this may sound irreverent, but the most famous rewrite case of all time is none other than Jesus, who was written out of history on Friday and written back in again on Monday. I'm not saying it didn't happen. In fact, I'm pretty certain it did happen. Coming back again because you're the Son of God has probably got to be true, because no scriptwriter could get away with making that up. If I were called in to get rid of someone in *Crossroads*, for example, I'd think twice about saying he was the Messiah and was going to be called away on other business."

Yes, quiet. Has George got any unfulfilled ambitions in the writing-out field?

"I'd like to have been called in by the Labour Party to help ease out Michael Foot. What a botch they made of that."

Loophole for Greenham offenders

Scenes of young Greenham Common peace women being bundled off to prison are at an end - at least for those under 21 years of age. By dint of a little-publicized loophole in the Criminal Justice Act 1982, magistrates have lost their power to penalize those under 21 who refuse to be bound over to be of good behaviour or to keep the peace. To date, women refusing to

"enter into a recognizance" to be bound over have suffered imprisonment, but under the new Act, imprisonment for young offenders is replaced by "youth custody". And a recent issue of the *Justice of the Peace* journal notes that youth custody for "binding over" does not seem to be within the provisions of the Act.

Delinquency disease

Delinquent activity is a normal part of adolescence - but most is of a trivial, even if criminal, nature, and youngsters usually grow out of it, according to the latest Home Office research on juvenile crime.

Mr Roger Tarling, of the department's research and planning unit, says research findings indicate that "delinquency should not generally be seen as a serious disease affecting a few who need to be removed from society to undergo major treatment". It is prevalent among young boys but despite "a significant minority" of persistent offenders, most stop offending in early adulthood when they get a job, or a girlfriend.

The problem is widespread. In 1981, 31 per cent of all offenders dealt with were juveniles, with the highest incidence among 15-year-olds. The rate is much higher among boys, with 12 per cent, compared with 2 per cent of girls, convicted of indictable offences.

The appropriate penalty, Mr Tarling concludes, is some kind of community service order, or other alternative to custody. Statistics show that institutional treatment is ineffective in the long-term as a means of prevention. A sample 633

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: LAW



per cent of young offenders sentenced by the courts were reconvicted within six years. The highest rate of reconviction - 83 per cent - was among those who received custodial sentences.

DIY house sales

While the Law Society does battle with non-qualified conveyancers, Joseph Bradshaw, guru of "do-it-yourself" conveyancing, has brought out his own guide to marketing one's house. "Be your own estate agent and save up to £1,000 or more in fees", he invites houseowners. Mr Bradshaw is the arch-debunker of professional mystique. "Anyone", he says, "can set up shop as an estate agent, and why not? An unqualified agent can be as good as, and even better at

Sma' wee claims

A "small claims" court procedure whereby individuals can bring an action, without a solicitor, to recover a sum of less than £500 in England and Wales or £300 in Northern Ireland is well established. But Scotland has no such procedure.

A pilot project on Dundee, however, has already proved highly successful. According to findings of the Scottish Office's central research unit, consumers whose cases were dealt with by an experimental

small claims court, found the process far more satisfactory than the existing "summary cause" procedure.

Costs were limited to £25, so that legal representation was discouraged. Litigants found it simple to put their case to the Sheriff (judge) and both parties felt the disputes had been fairly sorted out. By contrast, under existing procedure, for small claims, people had problems putting their cases or answering solicitors' questions. The Scottish Consumer Council is calling for a similar small claims procedure to be introduced in Scotland generally.

Divorce and access

The Government's planned introduction of new divorce laws and the House of Lords' recent ruling on "ousting" spouses from the matrimonial home, have resulted in family law featuring prominently in the news.

Vigorous debate continues, particularly over the issue of access to children. An article in *The Magistrate* collated the latest arguments for not granting right of access to the father. These arguments suggested that access would cause difficulties; the child would suffer confusion of loyalty, and insecurity.

By contrast, an article in the *Journal of Social Welfare Law* by Martin Richards lists eight benefits that access bestows, according to research at the Child Care Development Group in Cambridge and at the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies in Oxford.

Among them, is the child's opportunity for practice in managing many relationships; the "power-

ful symbolism" provided by the continuity of the other parent figure; the chance to "work through the fear and anger the child may feel towards both parents; relief for the custodial parent stress in being the sole parent and the presence of a second parent if disaster strikes the first."

A dead marriage, Martin Richards concludes, cannot be set aside as if it had never happened. Courts, it should be at all stages encourage a "norm of continued contact" between both parents and the child.

Libel reforms

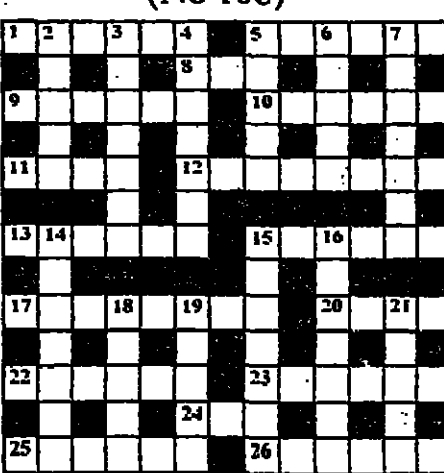
There is scathing criticism of both the Press Council and the law of libel as adequate means of redress for victims of press inaccuracies in the newly published *People against the Press* by Geoffrey Robertson, barrister and author. His indictment is bound to increase pressure for reform of both, and to reawaken the debate over a statutory right of reply.

He calls for the scrapping of libel laws as far as they apply to the press - except in the case of deliberate and malicious publication of material known to be false - and the taking over of the Press Council's role in dealing with complaints by a statutory press ombudsman, with power to order newspapers to publish replies or corrections.

More likely to gain ground however is the Law Society's long-held wish to see legal aid extended to libel: defamation remains the only branch of common law not now covered by legal aid. The society is expected to renew pressure for this reform in the next parliamentary session.

Frances Gibb

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 108)



- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Consider (6) | 2 Reddish dye (5) |
| 5 Government (6) | 3 Poisonous (7) |
| 8 Tiller (3) | 4 Onion-like vegetable (7) |
| 9 Oxygen lack (6) | 5 Summarize (5) |
| 10 Compelling (6) | 6 Leg of mutton (5) |
| 11 Light ring (4) | 7 One-eyed lens (7) |
| 12 Mouth colouring (5) | 14 Aural medicine (7) |
| 13 Foundation garment (6) | 15 Cornucopia (7) |
| 15 Great quantities (6) | 16 Globule (7) |
| 17 Chief (3) | 18 Beginning (5) |
| 20 Greek spirit (4) | 19 Blither (5) |
| 22 Medical practitioner (6) | 21 Automaton (5) |
| 23 Self confidence (6) | |
| 24 Printing fluid (3) | |
| 25 Secondary road (6) | |
| 26 Necessitate (6) | |
- SOLUTION TO No 107
ACROSS: 1 Depict 4 Mingle 7 Sulk 8 Inscribe 9 Hard line 12 Tip 15 Embars 16 Strain 17 Fox 19 Esoteric 24 Millpond 25 Dime 26 Brogue 27 Runner
DOWN: 1 Dash 2 Pillar box 3 Twirl 4 Mason 5 Aura 6 Rabbi 10 Dirge 11 Extra 12 Tradition 13 Pine 14 Reef 18 Osier 20 Chore 21 Tulor 22 Flieg 23 Weir

BOOKS

Ghost writer

M. R. James
An Informal Portrait
By Michael Cox

(Oxford, £14.50)

M. R. James was, first of all, for that is how he is known and admired by the largest number of people, just about the best writer of ghost stories of the last hundred years. His only serious competitor in this line is Walter de la Mare, who was a better, altogether more serious writer, as M. R. James would probably not have disputed; but a little too indefinite and whimsical. In de la Mare something a little funny is going on, or so it might seem, but perhaps it is only an effect of the lobster or the hot afternoon sun. In James there really is a yellowish face looking at one through the gap in the curtain, with tatters of blackened flesh on it and long, greasy strands of something very like hair.

James was also an exceedingly distinguished and encyclopaedically informed scholar of an old-fashioned antiquarian kind, with an enormous fund of detailed and accurate knowledge of the manuscript contents of cathedral libraries, the inscriptions on and significance of stained glass, the apocryphal books of the New Testament and other topics of this generally fascinating but uninteresting nature, what Francis Bacon called "the delicate learning", in other words, the accumulation of intriguing odds and ends. This occupation provided James with props and settings for his stories of an appropriately haunting nature: castles and tomb-inscriptions, abbeys and ancient colleges.

His personal attraction was plainly very great. It is evident from the agreeable levity of his stories and the consistent theme of all recollections of him. As fellow and Provost of King's and Provost of Eton his door seems to have been open to all callers, he was unceasingly involved in readings of plays and stories and comparable species of domestic high kinks, his letters abound with jokes, he remained entirely untouched by self-importance, large, clumsy, pallid, ill-dressed, practically inefficient, he specialised in unsystematic, unsystematizable knowledge and in fun.

He was born in 1862, his father being an evangelical parson in Suffolk. He shone, sometimes erratically, at his prep school and Eton and passed into King's as equal top scholar. He became a fellow, lectured and taught very little, combined directorial posts at the Fitzwilliam Museum with college offices at King's, even for a little while the Provostship, left that post for its equivalent at Eton and died in 1936. He had as little to do with women as possible, disliked science and its exponents' increasing domination of his college, felt very warmly about his young men friends, took bicycle holidays, above all in France with all of whose cathedrals he was familiar, never went to America, seldom went to London.

What was to turn out something of a misfortune was his friendship from prep school days with A. C. Benson. That powerful, tormented, not altogether benevolent figure went

everywhere James went and committed a great many thoughts about him to his gigantic diary, now open to public inspection and magnificently used as the basis of David Newsome's Benson biography *On The Edge of Paradise*. In this copious source of comment, James's lack of critical intelligence and of serious interest in anything but minute oddments of scholarship are repeatedly deplored. Benson also, quite unjustifiably, attacks James for insouciant insensitivity about the war. Recurrent expressions of contempt for James's inadequacies as an administrator seem no more than outbursts of envy about James's effortless acquisition of positions of dignity and emolument which Benson would have liked for himself. Benson should not be blamed too much. His diaries were too vast to be intended for anything but private emotional relief. To see them as expressing his considered views is comparable to recording the noises made by an operatic tenor in the bath.

There was, as Michael Cox observes, usually a measure of truth in what Benson wrote, all the same. James knew a great deal, but the knowledge involved was susceptible only of being assembled, not put to any use. James, if not unfeeling by any means, was an escapist, hastening to consciously antiquated Eton from a King's increasingly dominated by the "ungodly", i.e. people like Keynes. There were some odd moments in his early years: two episodes of bullying at school, an extraordinary obsession with white at Eton with Queen Victoria's translation from the Ethiopic to her, a rather menacing version of those dreams many seem to have about giving the Queen Mother, wearing gum boots, a cup of tea.

Despite the age in which it was passed, M. R. James's was a life in sunshine, shadowed only by the deaths of friends. Apart from that he knew some annoyances, but never failure. His own recollections, *Eton and King's*, are full of jokes and devoid of introspection. A biographer of such a man should perhaps stick to what the subject thought of as being of most importance, as in James's case, did R. W. Pfaff in his excellent and very well-written book, principally concerned with James's scholarly work, in 1980.

Michael Cox's "informal portrait" is rather dull. It contains little that is not found in Pfaff, expresses it with less felicity and has hardly anything to say about the scholarly work of its subject. It may be that he shares the mid-disapproval of M. R. James's old Eton tutor, Luxmoore (a regular Christmas visitor at King's, all the same): *Last night Monty James read us a new Christmas story of the most bloodcurdling character, after which those played animal grab who did not mind having their clothes torn to pieces and their hands nailed.* The cleverness and the gaiety of them all is wonderful and yet if it goes on like this in term time - and it does - where is the strenuous life, and where for knowledge that one looks for at College?

Anthony Quinton



Massacre of the Innocents by Raphael, a pen and chalk drawing of nude and violent action, from Raphael by Roger Jones and Nicholas Penny (Yale, £15.95). This handsome book, published for the quinqucentenary of Raphael's birth, discusses the life and works of the greatest Renaissance artist, the organization of his studio, the market he supplied, the patrons he served, and the status he enjoyed. He drew this circa 1511, when he was experimenting with scenes of violent movement and passion, for an engraving by Marcantonio Raimondi.

Serious travelling

The Intelligent Traveller's Guide to Historic Britain
By Philip A. Crowl

(Sidgwick & Jackson, £12.95)

No Intelligent Traveller is going to tote this unillustrated 800 page tome round Britain. Scots will be shocked to find that Britain does not include Scotland - a small type exclusion is, it is true, printed on the title page.

Having said this it is admittedly an astonishing work, which took Philip A. Crowl ten years to write. An American history lecturer with strong leanings towards all things naval and military, he calls the book a labour of love. Lord Norwich in a foreword says it is difficult to know which is the greater, the love or the labour.

In his introduction Mr Crowl says several times that his book is intended for the Intelligent Traveller. Truly Intelligent Travellers, he says will note the countryside, the pleasing harmonies of British voices and the infinite variety of Britain. In between comes the serious sightseeing.

The body of the book is an easy flowing Narrative History in ten chapters, taking the reader from the First Ice Age to 1945. It neatly knits together, mostly in bold type, characters, monuments and places, such as Harold Hadrada; the *forogon* at Chastusier; the premonstratensian Bayham Abbey; the Tower of London, where the young prince was "done in"; and the Tank Museum at Bovington.

Do American tourists really want to know all this? Most Britons will consider themselves unusually well-informed

if they know half of it, and although fairly conscious of their past will be happy to be reminded of what they have forgotten, and told about what they never knew.

The second part of the book is a gazetteer, well referenced to Ordnance Survey maps, of buildings, museums, gardens et al. (as Mr Crowl would say), grouped by counties and described in notes mostly repeated from the heavy type in the main text. Playing the game of important omissions one doesn't find much. Mr Crowl is very thorough, but Brunel's Clifton Suspension Bridge (described by Pevsner as "one of the noblest of English suspension bridges"), and Liverpool Anglican Cathedral by Giles Gilbert Scott are a couple of clangers.

Mr Crowl's three star classification is unsatisfactory; why even AA hotels have up to five. In his assessment, attractiveness, convenience, amenities, and the efficiency of "custodial staff" are the criteria. This results in a very mixed bag. For example, Canterbury cathedral (among others), Chertwell, Manchester Town Hall and Dove Cottage are all awarded three stars.

His critical censure is reserved almost exclusively for St Pancras Station Hotel, which he finds a red brick monster, and "frankly ugly by any standard". On the other hand he gives one of his rare accolades to the garden of Haddon Hall, "gorgeous - a lush display of floral plenitude".

Incidentally only one Lutyns building is mentioned, Castle Drogo (one star), Basil Spence's Coventry Cathedral (three stars) is described "as very modern" and its architect's name is not mentioned.

Gontran Goulden

Home sweet Home

Letters to a Grandson
By Lord Home

(Collins, £6.95)

A close relationship between an author of a book and his reviewer, though unusual, could be beneficial in the sense that any praise bestowed upon one brother by another needs to be well-merited, while any fall from grace is likely to be ruthlessly exposed.

Moreover, a close knowledge of the life and character of any public figure who commits himself to paper should enable one to judge, with accuracy, whether he has practised what he preaches. In this case, there is no doubt of that whatever.

He has passed on, clearly and concisely, to a very lucky grandson, the political convictions that sustained him through a long and useful life. And what is most appealing, and indeed, inspiring - is the tolerance that he displays towards opposing points of view.

For instance, as regards the Oxford Union Debate before the war and CND today, he has no doubt that their philosophy is a false doctrine, but he never, for one moment, questions their sincerity.

In short, he never sneers at an opponent, never tub-thumps, never waxes the flag, around his head and gallows into battle with his vision blinded by it. All is calm, dispassionate and analytical, including his assessment of the problems posed by Russia.

From the years spent dealing with that sensitive and prickly nation, he has learned that patience, firmness and outspokenness pay dividends. He does not - which I find refreshing - trot out that old hackneyed phrase about the Russian wish

to dominate the world (God help the nation if there ever has been one, which nurses the ambition to attain so troublesome a prize). He seems aware that Russia pushes her luck for strategic reasons (with, perhaps, the minor bonus of exporting communism), probing weaknesses but, at the same time, ready to mark time and even withdraw (as with Cuba), when the choice is between statelessness and suicide. "It will," he writes, in the key sentence in this book, "pay the democracies to play the game of co-existence long."

In other words, his message, as I read it, is "put up your sword, by all means but make sure it is still in the scabbard. And make sure, as well, that everybody knows it - friend and foe alike."

To leave his main theme this book is laced with brief, illuminating anecdotes about his fellow statesmen in this century from Edward Grey, through Chamberlain and Churchill, to Gromyko, which lighten almost every page. My favourite concerns the return of Archibald Sinclair and Herbert Samuel to the Liberal Party from the national government (whose policy on free trade they found suspect) in which the process of extracting them from the latter is described as "like pulling kittens by their tails from a jug of cream."

To sum up, in this short book, brimful with humanity and humour, strength and tolerance, one finds a man of eighty writing sense (which is a problem to most people half his age) and, at the same time, illustrating history, with a touch as light as it is telling. I confess to wishing, most sincerely, that he would review my plays.

William Douglas-Home

Fiction

Cast a Kohled eye

Aisha
By Ahdaf Soueif

(Cape, £7.50)

Brilliant Creatures
By Clive James

(Cape, £7.95)

A Trembling Upon Rome
By Richard Condon

(Michael Joseph, £8.95)

Ahdaf Soueif is a fresh new voice among the old pros this week, her first book coinciding nicely with the state of oriental carpets flooding London this summer. Like her heroine Aisha she comes from an academic Egyptian family, as much at home in Western European culture as in the traditions of her own country, clearly perceiving the delights and drawbacks of both. In these stories - for this is less a novel than a collection of incidents and characters, linked, some times tenuously, to Aisha herself - she has a rich mine of memory to draw on, from the beaches and markets of Alexandria to a Putney girls' comprehensive, from the chatter of Cairo society ladies to the reminiscences of a peasant bride.

The theme that runs through is one of common experience that turns into tradition, and the deep-rooted feelings that draw the controlled and liberated woman back to reluctant contact with primitive conventions and desires. There is lively, lucid writing here, vivid description and sharply observed dialogue. Miss Soueif has a particularly sensitive feeling for the relationship between adult and child, whether the latter is listening to old tales or moving through a world of unexplained and ineluctable regulations. As with Lisa St Aubin de Teran, I was

never quite sure whether I was in the realm of fiction or fact, and I look forward to the time when this stylish writer takes a bolder leap into the world of the free imagination.

Perhaps this is what Clive James thinks he has done. In his self-conscious introduction he certainly denies that *Brilliant Creatures* is a roman-a-clef, but his ingenuously is unconvincing, as well as taking half the fun out of the identification game. He does himself no service by this preface, for alas, he lacks the high good humour he admires in Pevsner as well as in himself. It took me a long time to get into the book at all. The prose is surprisingly turgid, laden with so many allusions and references that it was like swimming in treacle.

But persevere; once it gets going it's quite a jolly romp. Mr James has an endearingly sentimental streak that makes him write admirably on the trials of being in love, and you can always check your score on the allusions by consulting the notes at the back. (I thought I did rather well, being, I hope, sufficiently informed to discuss the book, not merely as one of the "increasing number of implacable female critics".) The brilliant creatures of the title live in a world of lost innocence and vast incomes; publishers, writers, media men and consultants, they belong to a charmed circle where everyone knows everybody else's business and thinks it the most important thing in life. It's all marvelously clever. Clive James doesn't miss a trick. The index (in a novel?) is a veritable catalogue of fashionable 1980s table talk. It's funny, too. Enjoy. But a diet of *Brilliant Creatures* and *The Ploughman's Lunch* - which it much resembles, while mercifully not taking itself so seriously - is enough to send me scurrying happily back to suburbia.

Isabel Raphael

Science Fiction

Kill the Aleph

Against Infinity
By Gregory Benford

(Gollancz, £7.95)

The comparison is inevitable. Here's young Manuel, working with his father on Jupiter's moon of Ganymede, and growing up and into an urgent need to kill the Aleph, a stupendous, ever-changing creature which intermittently erupts into human lives. As a whole of a tale it's cut as near the mythic bone as any Moby Dick. The poignancy achieved here, however, is in the climax when Manuel returns to find that death is not the living end - or the end of living - and that, as a container of all universal laws, the Aleph is indestructible.

Despite a falter or two in the last stretch, this is the novel that moves Mr Benford from the ranks of the simply readable into those of the SF-remarkable. The interplay between character, scientific speculation and allegory is accomplished with graceful dexterity, the happening legend born along on a narrative as sure-footed as those engineered animals on whom Manuel depends.

It is a book whose imagery is as precise as it is economical, a book to welcome because its craft is so finely wrought as to become art. Its story of obsessive pursuit is one that still says something about ourselves. If you only read one SF book this year, make it this one.

Space 3, chosen by Richard Davis (*Hutchinson*, £5.95). In his introduction Mr Davis modestly implies the limitation of his book's circulation to "us terrestrials". Aliens, though, might well enjoy these stories for the young which constantly reveal humans as being dis-comforted by events outside

their control. For the reviewer, the stories are of very unequal quality, the best by far being Bob Shaw's *Light Of Other Days*, in which time-stored "slow glass" contains a sad emotional truth.

Isaac Asimov Presents The Best SF Of The 19th Century, edited by Isaac Asimov, Charles G. Waugh and Martin Greenberg (Gollancz, £9.95). Takes three to tango out this sort of compilation these days, it seems. Still, some marvellous stories from a time when tradition was under pressure from the new technologies of both mind and matter. The obvious masters are here, from Poe to Jack London and I am indebted for the inclusion of a French writer new to me, J.-H. Rosny aîné, whose story of prehistoric mankind pondering invading clones has just the right amount of humour and awe.

Hello America, by J. G. Ballard (*Triad/Granada*, £1.50). The desert sand has moved into New York and survivors contemplate their lives. Enter Mr Ballard's worlds and you become trapped in a seance difficult to break out of, so powerful is his method.

Helliconia Spring, by Brian Aldiss (*Triad/Granada*, £1.95). Part one of a Helliconia trilogy, a most impressive and credible introductory invention. As a world-wielder Mr Aldiss is up there among the best.

Tom Hutchinson

I eat, ergo I am

The British at Table 1940-1980
By Christopher Driver

(Chanto & Windus, £8.95)

1940 having been the year I started eating, or anyway imbibing the Allen & Hanbury's in lieu of mother's milk, (a pity, by the way, that Mr Driver, by confining his survey to mature sorts of enter, of age to be at table, at least in a high chair, bypasses the most heated gastronomic confrontation of his period, the bottle v. breastfeeding controversy), I felt at moments practically dizzy with nostalgia while reading this informative and entertaining book.

It is a memory lane book, with a vengeance, whether you came in with Woolton Pie or quiche lorraine. From the wartime National Loaf and post-war snack piquante to the French country casseroles of the 1950s to what Christopher Driver, who writes cleverly and neatly, calls the "recondite puddings" of the English folk cookery revival of the seventies, for many of us everything we ever ate is here.

And so is every restaurant, it seems, we ever sat in. The fifties coffee bars, The Apicella restaurants, white-tiled and jungle-planted, which now seem quite ridiculously sixties in their ambience, full of girls who looked like - and may well have been - Jean Shrimpton, toying with the giant prawns and tagliatelli con tartufi. Cranks that Russia pushes her luck for strategic reasons (with, perhaps, the minor bonus of exporting communism), probing weaknesses but, at the same time, ready to mark time and even withdraw (as with Cuba), when the choice is between statelessness and suicide. "It will," he writes, in the key sentence in this book, "pay the democracies to play the game of co-existence long."

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To sum up, in this short book, brimful with humanity and humour, strength and tolerance, one finds a man of eighty writing sense (which is a problem to most people half his age) and, at the same time, illustrating history, with a touch as light as it is telling. I confess to wishing, most sincerely, that he would review my plays.

English breakfast and the proper cup of tea.

Our receptive attitude to the cuisines of all nations, the Chinese, for example, Indian and Middle Eastern, in the post-war period - a phenomenon described in fascinating detail by Christopher Driver who points out that it has been, a largely one-way traffic, in spite of our delicious attempts to export Lymeswold - has meant we have become a culinary Tower of Babel. The more spoilt we are for choice the less distinct the flavours. My own son's daily menu at his Sheffield comprehensive puts before him pizza which tastes like the moussaka which tastes I fear not unlike the sweet-and-sour and curry. All served with chips and beans and followed by profiteroles. Profiteroles! Profiteroles! At 16p a portion. A pudding for school dinner which although extremely meaningful in terms of ideology, bringing archetypal rich man's food to the mass market, from the gastronomic viewpoint counts as foolhardy indeed.

Is it really worthwhile eating? At times, particularly when confronted by the dreaded TVP, one wonders. But Christopher Driver has a light hand with his statistics (as doubtless with his pastry: he writes as a born cook) and as well as providing us with dreadful tabulations of the incidence of flavour blur and inroads of convenience foods, and worse, in British kitchens he collates the curiously idiosyncratic eating patterns, the enormous variations by region and by class, which are still to some extent a saving grace in Britain. For instance, the confused and deliciously confusing variations both in timing of the national evening meal and the way it is referred to - tea? high tea? dinner? supper? - which means it is still possible, in accepting invitations to British homes in different regions or milieus, to be offered either much more or much less food than you expected. Is it better to risk getting there replete or empty? A social dilemma almost everyone knows well.

The peculiarities and mysteries of eating Christopher Driver finds a constant source of interest. He has through the years acquired a reputation, mainly put about perhaps by those who ill-cooked vegetables and banal dessert trolleys he has rightly castigated, as a man cast in a mould which is rather ungenial. This is not the impression this book gives me at all. What I most like about it is its endless curiosity about our individual and private ways of eating, the human predilections which escape the market surveys, such as people who insist on spreading marmalade on kippers.

In identifying this immense cloud of unknowing - what exactly people do behind the scenes and why they like it - he reminds us successfully, and I think endearingly, that other people's eating remains endlessly bewildering, like other people's sex.

Fiona MacCarthy

The photographs in English Stone Building by Alec Clifton-Taylor and A. S. Ireson reviewed last week were taken by Peter Crawley.

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! ROBERT HALE

The Times Educational Supplement... a thoroughly admirable publication; essential reading for the serious and ambitious school-teacher one of the advantages enjoyed by an eighty-page educational magazine is the wealth of literary talent hanging around our colleges and universities waiting to write the odd freelance article. Which is why the TES is able to cover so much eclectic ground. (Roy Hattersley, Punch March 16 1983).

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The Times Educational Supplement

THE TIMES DIARY

Eyes have it

The new photo identification passes issued to MPs show up the freshers who are unused to being in the spotlight. Pictured with their eyes firmly closed against the glare are Tories Peter Braball, Jeremy Hanley, Jonathan Sayed and Labour's Tony Banks. The syndrome is not confined to new boys: Labour's Margaret Beckett, returned from Derby South, is on the blink as well. Caught with eyes half-closed are Conservatives Piers Merchant, Andrew Hunter, Michael Woodcock, Liberal Michael Meadowcroft and Labour's Dagenham retrained, Bryan Gould. It makes it look as if they are already in danger of going to sleep on the job.

Passing show

Parked on a yellow line outside Cannon Row police station yesterday was a black Austin taxi cab. It had no number plate at back or front, no hackney carriage licence, and no tax disc. Inside, the taxi identification plate was blank. Five traffic wardens walked past it with complete indifference.

● You get what you pay for on Swissair. In economy the signs say: "Fasten seat belts" in first class: "Please fasten seat belts."

Home comforts

I have heard that conditions are rough on Clydebank, but the district council is keen to tidy up. Here is a clause from their new leases issued to council tenants under the Tenant's Rights Etc (Scotland) Act 1980:

"Coal and fuel shall be stored in the space or cellar provided for the purpose and in no other place whatsoever in the dwellinghouse, and the bath shall be used as a bath for the purpose of bathing only; and if provided, the perambulator space shall be used only for storage, or location of a perambulator and for no other purpose whatsoever, and the said space for coal and fuel, the said bath and the said perambulator space shall be used only for the purpose attributed to them and specified in this Condition and for no other purpose or purposes whatsoever. And it is understood that the interpretation of this Condition shall be within the sole discretion of the landlord."

In other words, the new tenants' rights mean they have to give up the local customs of keeping the baby in the bunker, washing in the pram, and coal in the bath.

BARRY FANTONI



Funny, I thought Gerald's MP lived in Sussex

Gilbertian

HMS Pinfore, at the Festival Hall from July 26, is part of the Greater London Council's summer plans for the South Bank. Raymond Gubby, the promoter, agreed to put on the show only if the GLC guaranteed him against losses. It is now clear that the show cannot expect to succeed without advertising in London's evening paper, *The Standard*. The GLC has had an advertising boycott on *The Standard* since it published a Jak cartoon about the Irish. Despite urgent Mayday signals from Pinfore, the GLC leadership has decided that the boycott must continue. I expect HMS Pinfore, to be lost with all hands.

Nameless

Contestants on last week's *Brain of Britain* quiz were asked to name the editor of *The Times*. William Rees-Mogg, Duke, Hussy and Charles Wintour were suggested. The fourth competitor had, no idea. PHS, a modest supporter of the old *Times* principle of anonymity, is rather pleased with the trend.

Shaw thriller

Colin Shaw, who leaves the Independent Broadcasting Authority this autumn to run the programme companies' planning secretariat, has a thriller serial ready to go out on Radio 4 later this year. Its title, ironically, is *A Story with Pictures*. Shaw also admits that he had a recurring nightmare while in office as IBA's director of television. It was that he would discover that two ITV companies were simultaneously doing *War and Peace* only when Germans ran out of furs.

I am a Sagittarian. Yesterday the *Daily Express* said I was "faring best of all zodiac types". The *Daily Mirror* promised "exciting new possibilities and people" entering my life. The *Sun* foresaw a "most lifelike, chance". The *Daily Mail* confirmed "the picture is optimistic for your more expansive ambitions" and the *Daily Star* held out the prospect of "a surprise at work that could mean a boost to your income". So how come I had such an awful day?

PHS

Local democracy on the rocks?

The House of Commons will today be debating proposals by the Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr George Younger, to reduce the rates fixed by four Scottish councils, because he considers their planned spending to be "excessive and unreasonable". Lothian Regional Council would be required to cut its rate by 6p, Glasgow District Council by 3p, and Kirkcaldy and Stirling Districts by 2p each.

The Scottish Secretary of State's action has implications outside Scotland. Mr Younger has the power to set aside the rate levy fixed by the councils four and a half months ago and to substitute his own lower rate levy. The Government is indicating that it is considering introducing similar provisions (though their form may be different) in England and Wales. A White Paper is expected soon.

A number of authorities had selective action taken against them in 1981-82 but only one, Renfrew, chose to refund cash to the ratepayers. The others allowed "claw-back" of grant to the Exchequer - much to the surprise of the Secretary of State, who promptly prepared fresh legislation.

This is the legislation which is being used for the first time this year and it allows the Secretary of State to set aside a council's rate and to replace it with a lower rate.

Irrespective of whether or not the spending proposed by the four councils is adequate, reasonable or excessive - the yardsticks laid down in Scottish law - in

The Scottish Secretary's plans for council spending have implications south of the border, argues Noel Hepworth

relation to their needs and circumstances, some aspects of the position are particularly worrying.

There is, of course, a superficial appeal in any provision which seeks to curb large rates increases. Yet such a provision requires judgments by central departments on the circumstances and budget decisions of individual local authorities, and the problem is how can such remote judgments be made with any degree of fairness.

The Scottish exercise this year appears to have been very rough and ready and there are numerous glaring anomalies. Among the "closely comparable" authorities against whose spending Glasgow's is measured, is Cumbernauld which, on the face of it, has as much in common with Glasgow as the Isle of Skye has with the Isle of Dogs.

The Secretary of State's report to Parliament is in each case based mainly on his initial letter to the individual authorities, which had five appendices of figures. Most of the figures in the letter to Glasgow are wrong because of a £4m error which is freely acknowledged in a covering note by the

Secretary of State - but none of his wrong figures have been corrected.

The figures that are shown in the various reports are by no means obvious evidence of "excessive and unreasonable" spending. Lothian's rates are seen to have risen by 109 per cent over the period quoted, 1978/79 to 1983/84, while the average for all Scottish regions was 139 per cent. For all four authorities their increase in spending between 1982/83 and 1983/84 is significantly less than the average increase of their respective groups of so-called "closely comparable" authorities.

These examples are disturbing because they show that the phrase "excessive and unreasonable" is clearly capable of wide interpretation. They appear to confirm the view that rule of thumb judgments taken in Edinburgh or Whitehall, no matter what sophisticated statistical techniques they encompass, must inevitably be less well informed than local decisions taken locally.

If the most important decision which a local authority makes in the year - the determination of its budget - can be set aside either in the fashion described here or by some system of rate capping, then not only is local democracy dangerously damaged, but also that basic principle of public finance, that he who fixes the tax should also make the expenditure decisions and collect the tax, is grievously undermined.

The author is Director, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

Nicholas Ashford on John Glenn's improving campaign to become president

Into orbit as the prime challenger to Reagan

Washington
Is John Glenn the "right stuff" to become the next US president? Do Americans really want to replace an actor with an astronaut? Is there more to Glenn than just a chest-full of Second World War and Korean War medals and a reputation for superhuman cool - the man whose pulse rate hardly fluttered when his space capsule reentered the Earth's atmosphere in 1967?

These are the questions Americans are beginning to ask as the 62-year-old senator from Ohio steadily narrows the gap between himself and his chief rival, former Vice-President Walter Mondale. Though six candidates are seeking the Democratic nomination to run for president next year, the field has already narrowed to Glenn versus Mondale. A bet on Glenn at this stage could pay off, because he looks increasingly like becoming the odds-on favourite in the months ahead.

A trip on the campaign trail at this early stage is a good way of sizing up a candidate, of testing his popular appeal at a time when only the politicians are really concerned about next year's election. We went to Iowa, a corn-growing, pig-raising state which is classic "mid-America", and to Milwaukee, an attractive industrial city on Lake Michigan which is suffering most of the same problems that have blighted other mid-western cities.

Despite its small population and lack of an industrial base, Iowa plays a key role in the election process as the caucuses to be held there next January will be the first significant political tests of election year. All candidates try to cultivate Iowa as though it were their home constituency.

The most striking thing about Glenn is his name. Everybody knows him. He's John Glenn the spaceman. He does not need to spend millions of dollars on television advertising simply to enable people to recognize him. His name has already been given to countless streets, schools, colleges and even "Glennburgers". The crowds want to see him, shake his hand and ask for his autograph, which he liberally dispenses on scraps of paper, the inside of hats, plaster casts around broken limbs and even on carefully preserved copies of *Life* magazine recording his space voyage as the first American to orbit the earth.

"Hi, John", yell voices from the crowd. Glenn constantly smiling

Rome
The most catastrophic readings of the Christian Democratic defeat in last month's general election come from Roman Catholic commentators, who are nevertheless confused as to whether what really went was the party's invincibility or Catholicism as a political force.

"All that used to be said about Italian politics is now no longer true," says Father Gianni Bageri Bozzo, one of the best known writers who regularly write on political affairs. The party, he believes, now faces an uncertain future and will have to move in a form of no-man's land. He did not think the Christian Democrats were capable of halting the decline, which had brought them down from 38 per cent to 32 per cent of the vote, and they could find themselves supported by only a quarter of the electorate.

The Italian Church and Italian Catholicism, according to Father Bartolomeo Sorge, Editor of the Jesuit periodical *Civiltà Cattolica*, had not shown the courage to seek a new role for Catholicism in an Italy which has changed.

Some of the party's most dramatic losses were in areas regarded as heavily Catholic. For the first time in a general election, the party no longer has its absolute majority in the Senate where it lost 10 per cent of the vote in such traditional Catholic strongholds as Vicenza and Padua.

Such figures must have come as a shock to the leadership. One of the reasons why Italian Christian Democracy has survived as Italy's



Spaceman on a campaign walk: polls now give Glenn some edge over Mondale, his rival for Democratic nomination

waves or offers a double thumbs-up. Occasionally he breaks away to shake a few hands - although reluctantly, the result of a sense of reserve bred by his military background.

Not everyone who sees him remembers exactly who he is. As he was strolling along the banks of the Mississippi in Clinton, a body-builder approaches him and says "Hi John. I just want to ask you one question. What did you feel like when you set foot on the moon?" Glenn patiently explains that he only went into orbit and the first moon walk was seven years later.

The visible Glenn is a major asset to his candidacy, the audible Glenn less so. He is just not in the same league as President Reagan when it comes to making set speeches. But he is getting better and has improved dramatically since the fiasco of his keynote address to the 1976 Democratic convention. At this stage in the race he has one basic speech which he gives over and over again (with minor variations). The eyes of this staff start glazing over as they hear for the umpteenth time his quotation from Ralph Waldo Emerson or his one joke about how his wife Annie ticked him off for thinking about himself as a great man.

It's not a bad speech, general enough to appeal to almost any audience and interspersed with patriotic exhortations designed to produce a smattering of applause. His theme is the need for leadership towards the future, not towards the past. "We must not roll back the clock... we need to set goals for the future, rather than harking back to times of yore." He attacks Reagan's economic programme as being "borrow, borrow, spend, spend", reminding audiences that the present administration has added \$716,000m to the national debt and raised the budget deficit to \$200,000m.

When the voters lose faith in the party

by Peter Nichols

principal political force since the last war was the support of the church. Whether the Church's active presence in the country's political life will be seen by historians as a favourable factor in Italy's development is doubtful. But certainly in the immediate postwar period there was a sense of emergency because of the fear of communism, an attitude actively encouraged by Pope Pius XII.

He was responsible for prescribing the threat of ex-communication in 1949 for those who supported communism. As an indication of how closely woven were Italian political events and the papacy in those days, two examples suffice, both involving Alcide de Gasperi, the first and greatest of Christian Democrat prime ministers.

In 1952 de Gasperi had to fight against a papal plan to impose an alliance between the Christian Democrats and the extreme neo-fascist right in local elections in Rome as a response to the communist challenge. Yet, earlier, when Italy's membership of Nato was about to be debated, de Gasperi felt driven to do something against his own character. He had to

He touches briefly on the damage the Reagan Administration has caused to civil rights, women's rights, education; he bemoans research cuts which he compares to "eating the seedcorn of the future"; he takes occasional swipes at the MX missile and Reagan's anti-Soviet obsession. He then invariably ends with an exhortation to his audience to join his "crusade" for a better future, a better America. The applause is always polite, sometimes enthusiastic, never rapturous. Glenn's weakness is for questions.

It is then that his reputation as an "earnest bore" begins to show. A question about acid rain produces a 15-minute answer. In another response he gets bogged down in a story about a trip he made to New Guinea, the point of which never really becomes apparent.

Unlike Reagan, Glenn can show that he has mastered his homework. His military and space background has given him a taste for detail and a retentive mind.

Many American commentators have dated him for being dull. George Will, a conservative columnist, likened Glenn to porridge - "nourishing but unexciting". Another remarked that if Glenn ever gave a fireside chat he would put the fire out.

However, this cynicism is not widely shared by his audiences. "I was totally impressed, I'll certainly vote for him," said Bill Guerin, a member of the Wisconsin Police Union, after hearing him speak in Milwaukee. "He's genuine. He speaks from the heart. He can instill the old pioneer spirit back into this country," said Les Schweitz, a motor union official.

Glenn's immediate problems are organizational. Mondale, a thorough professional, has been quietly building up his organization virtually since he went down with President Carter in 1980. He knows which of the power blocks within the

Democratic Party need cultivating and where the best sources of funds are. He is nearly assured of endorsement from the American Federation of Labour-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and will pick up most black support. By contrast, Glenn, who started late, seems almost amateurish. But he is learning fast and, more importantly at this stage, is showing he is as adept as anyone in getting supporters to dig deep into their pockets.

But perhaps Glenn's strongest asset is the widely held perception that he, more than any other candidate, offers the best prospect of defeating Reagan. Recent polls have shown that Democrats and Republicans alike believe that Reagan is more vulnerable to a challenge by Glenn than by Mondale. "If they want anyone but Reagan, they have to choose Glenn," commented John Schmitt, president of the AFL-CIO in Wisconsin.

Why is he viewed in this way? Partly because of his national hero image, he has actually lived the sort of life that Reagan aspired to portray in films. Partly because he has a proven record of success - as a marine pilot, as an astronaut, as a businessman (he has amassed a \$6m fortune) and as a politician (in 1980 he greatly increased his own Senate majority while Carter was losing in Ohio).

Partly, too, because he has broad appeal. He seems to embody the solid, middle-of-the-road values which Americans are beginning to respect again. Glenn even looks a bit like Eisenhower, who is widely regarded as a good if somewhat dull president. He has none of Reagan's theatricality or Carter's evangelism. It is inconceivable that he would purloin anybody else's briefing book. He is a dead centre, straight-backed, red, white and blue American. As American, in fact, as apple pie.

replied: "I doubt that he even knows our address".

Wherever one's loyalties or prejudices lay, this ecclesiastical blessing gave the party a special authority. Gradually that apparently immovable power has suffered erosion. It was unable in the 1970s to prevent legislation introducing divorce and abortion, and lost a referendum on each aimed at abrogating the laws. In the anti-abortion campaign, Pope John Paul II personally entered the battle and emerged defeated. But it was not until the elections last month that the party's actual political authority was damaged.

Many Christian Democrats believe, or want to believe, that they were simply caught at an awkward moment, because their new leadership had not had time to settle in before parliament was dissolved. They maintain that they will win back their losses as soon as there is another election, and can hardly wait for the next dissolution. They argue that they have to adjust to a Vatican which is no longer interested in them to the extent it was under the Italian Popes.

There is some feeling, however, especially among Catholic laymen, that the party needs guidance from on high if it is to succeed in reasserting its authority. They may have failed to grasp that the real nature of their problem is not that the Pope is Polish, but that what remains of strongly felt Catholicism no longer sees itself reflected politically in Christian Democracy.

Ronald Butt

After the GLC, a Greek lesson

The Conservative members of the Greater London Council are less than enthusiastic about Mrs Thatcher's commitment to abolish it. This does not mean that they object to the replacement of the GLC by some better arrangement for representing London. It was not only to avoid rocking the Tory boat that they refrained from protest when the abolition commitment was announced during the election campaign. The Conservative members of the GLC recognize that the GLC, in its current shape, represents an intolerable abuse of the London public by its sheer waste of money. But they are not (except for a very small majority) willingly giving their consent for it to be scrapped and replaced by nothing else of a representative sort.

For one thing, they see Mrs Thatcher's government as more centralist in practice than any of its predecessors, and this worries them. Centralism has been forced on the Prime Minister and her colleagues by their desperate need to get an over-spending national economy under control. Since the Government contributes over half the money disbursed by local authorities which were then able to use their financial power to defy the central economic policy, it was inevitably driven to place local authorities under much closer discipline.

All this is appreciated, yet it sticks in the throats of Conservatives who have devoted much of their lives to (unpaid) local politics that encourage the local electorate to cast votes largely, not on local questions but against the national government of the day, and on the national issue of the moment. They are certainly not a judgment on how well the local transport or road system works.

I have previously suggested that for education we should move to elected local education authorities (on the Isle of Man model) which would enable interested people to vote on what was actually proposed for education, and not simply for a party in general. Thus Labour voters of Islington could decide whether they want free-type education or the more Highbury Grove-type education, whose abolition by Iles has repeatedly been resisted by local opinion (mostly Labour). They could vote for representatives on the education authority without having to forsake their general party loyalty.

Why should we not have the same system for the management of the London regional transport authority, for the fire brigades, for roads, recreation and for housing? Greater London could be (for the management of those functions which could not easily be devolved to the boroughs) administered under the surveillance of elected authorities. People would be more willing to vote specifically on the local issues that move them.

Some would say this would mean too many elections, but we do live in the age of the computer. Why not use it to move towards the participatory democracy of the Greek city state? Yes, the GLC should go, but not without a representative replacement that can act as well as talk. Greater London could provide a pilot scheme of representative functional management of the things that concern all Londoners, which could be a model for the country as a whole. The idea is at least worth a thought.

In other words, Mr Livingstone

Jonathan Sale

No sweets, please, we're grandchildren

There was something very special about last Tuesday. Not quite a day in a million but certainly one in a hundred. I phoned my mother. We speak so rarely that when she phones us and I answer, she assumes it's a wrong number.

"Hello", I said when she picked up the receiver. No messing around with endearments or pleasantries, you note, not on a peak-time trunk call. "I'd like to make it clear", I went on, "that the children never have sweets, apart from sweetie night, parties, or when I'm not looking - and always under strict supervision."

"It's Jonathan, isn't it?" It didn't take her long to identify the mystery voice.

"It is", I admitted. "I'm glad we agree on that, anyway. But to continue: no eating between meals, even sneak previews of the roast potato. And especially not those biscuits covered with lumps of sugar as big as your hand."

"Why are you telling me all this?" she asked. "It doesn't hurt to establish exactly what the state of play is." I replied. "And talking of play, the interval between supper and bath-time has been reduced to fifteen minutes, twenty-four good behaviour."

"I know", she cried, "you're coming to stay! That'll be lovely."

"I hope so", I replied. "Just so long as the rules and regulations are well understood and the conditions clearly laid down, preferably witnessed by two neighbours of a mature age."

"Older than you, you mean?" I could probably manage that by the weekend. Would you like a printed menu? There was a bit of an edge to her voice.

"Just typewritten", I conceded. "And another thing. They're on a special milk-free diet, so none of your usual custard."

"But they like my custard!" They do. That's why we're bringing a tin of four-pot milk-substitute powder, lovingly grated from the living sofa-bean. Just add water, mix, and make the custard.

"So at last my water's good enough for my grandchildren?"

"No", I snapped, "as a matter of fact it isn't. We filter ours through a special device clamped to the cold tap; I'll bring it and the children will enjoy watching their grandfather fix

it on, as long as he watches his language."

There was a long, temper-controlling silence. Finally she said, "At least they'll enjoy riding their bikes in the garden."

"That reminds me. Our car is full up with typewriters, sewing machines and some curtains I'd like you to hem, so perhaps you could borrow the bicycles from the children next door."

"That's easy. The people next door are away so you can help yourself. Perhaps you'd like to stay there instead?"

I thought about it. "Probably not. If we're by ourselves, the service won't be so good. Don't bother about sugar for the morning tea, by the way. We've given it up."

"That's a relief," she said, "one less thing to think about."

"Just lemon," I added. "Earl Grey will do. No coffee, though."

"That's a pity. I just bought some with you in mind."

"Thanks, no. But I'm partial to a coffee-substitute made of ground-up roots and imported from Poland. That health food shop on the far side of town should stock it." Well, I do try to be helpful.

"I trust I shall have time off to take them for a walk to that stream down the lane," she remarked. "Certainly", I said, "as long as you hold the younger ones firmly by the hand and keep on the pavement."

"I am", she replied through what sounded, from some freakish effect of the Post Office equipment, like gritted teeth. "Familiar with the process of looking after children. I had two. You were one of them, if you remember. Would there be anything else?"

"Just one thing. It would be handier if we had your bedroom. It's further away from where the children sleep, so we won't be disturbed in the morning."

"That's fine," she said sweetly. "No trouble at all. I'm all for people having a good time when they go away for the weekend. In fact, I think I'll do just that myself. It's ages since I saw your Auntie Pat. I know she'll be free this weekend. Make yourself at home, I shall."



P.O. Box 7, 200, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE FIRE NEXT TIME

Renewed fighting in Nicaragua. An American carrier group diverted to the Pacific Coast of Central America. Major naval and military exercises to be held in the Caribbean. Dr Kissinger called in by the President to make urgent policy recommendations on Central America. This is the language of crisis, if not yet the actuality. It is not the actuality because the crisis of Central America in the eyes of President Reagan's administration is not a crisis which springs from the squabbles and instabilities of four or five small countries in the Central American isthmus. It is where that crisis might lead which troubles the Administration. It is the spectre of a Castroite Mexico.

There are now so many different strands in this story that it is hard to assess the position of the Administration both in the short and the long term. First, is it correct for Washington to feel that the prospect of a Castroite Mexico would be strategically unacceptable to the security of the United States? Secondly, should that be the case, is it a valid fear that the revolutionary contagion of Central America could ultimately subvert Mexico as well? Do the Mexicans agree with this analysis? If they do not (as appears to be the case) does that matter? What policy could Washington pursue, with or without Mexico, which would limit that possibility?

Thirdly, is any coherent policy to prevent it yet being carried out in El Salvador, Nicaragua or elsewhere? Is it succeeding? Can it succeed without much more overt recognition that Cuba is the real source of this type of turbulence in Central America? Can Cuba be forcefully dissuaded from exporting its revolution - arms and men - to susceptible neighbours without involving the Soviet Union? Can any forward policy by Washington in Central America, certainly one which could contain active measures against Cuba, command the support of American public opinion?

Dr Kissinger's appointment suggests that President Reagan needs answers to these questions, and has not yet found them from within his Administration. It could be, though, that the Kissinger appointment is not intended to find answers, but to help raise public awareness of the issues at stake in Central America. Certainly hitherto the reluctance of American public opinion, both to become informed and to become

involved in Central America, has been a severe restraint on Mr Reagan's ability to be firm. This reluctance may also spring from a public sense that inadequate leadership on the issue has itself encouraged the view that a greater awareness would not yet be justified.

The Mexican dimension, though still unstated, is considerable. One does not have to agree entirely with the Administration's assumption that Mexico is bound to be destabilised by revolutionary successes in Nicaragua and possibly El Salvador, to see that, should that occur, it would present a major strategic nightmare for the United States.

The United States has always been suspicious of Mexican stability. That has soured relations, which are never open or easy, but the economic interdependence is considerable. The common border stretches for 1,600 miles. The Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions, and the fighting in El Salvador, have already created a substantial refugee presence in the United States. Consider the extra threat across the Mexican border, which is anyway uncontrolled, should a Leftist revolution in a next-door neighbour with more than six times the population of Cuba provoke an even larger wave.

The occult character of Mexican politics is an unhealthy basis from which to withstand the strains caused by mismanagement of the oil boom, overpopulation, grotesque income disparities, and a chronic tendency to espouse revolutionary rhetoric abroad without realising that its message is bound also to be heard at home. The Mexican domino could fall, if not yet.

The Administration is right to see that as the ultimate threat in the region. But is its current policy a correct response to that conclusion? Apparently Washington prefers to act alone and leave the Latin states to organize their efforts through the Contadora group. That may give the Latin a freer hand in diplomacy, but it also fosters the impression in Latin eyes that the United States Administration, as usual, is concerned only with its own perspectives and not with Latin American difficulties as a whole. These suspicions may be fuelled by the appointment of Dr Kissinger. He has no constituency in Latin America, and a reputation for preferring a covert manipulative style of diplomacy which Latins would find discouraging.

Dr Kissinger is said to agree

with President Reagan's policy in Central America. Perhaps he can therefore articulate it more fully. It must reach beyond El Salvador, though the United States should certainly not abandon the Salvadorans. It must also reach beyond the ambiguities of support for the Nicaraguan insurgents. Eventually the United States must face up to the question of Cuba if it is to present a coherent policy to match its assertion that the Caribbean basin is the victim of Cuba's revolutionary exports.

When Mr Haig was Secretary of State he too sent warships into the Caribbean to intimidate the Cubans, though he said nothing at the time. Perhaps the play worked. Certainly it led to a meeting with the Cuban Foreign Minister in Mexico, followed by a mission to Havana for General Walters, the President's Latin-American troubleshooter. Even Mr Gromyko is alleged to have signified a reluctance to get too exposed in the support of Cuba at such extremes of communication. However these early efforts in the Reagan administration tapered off. Public opinion was not behind them, and other preoccupations - notably the Falklands and the Middle East - superseded.

The Kissinger appointment and the movement of warships has raised the temperature. It remains to be seen what will be the practical effect on policy. One danger in such an appointment is that it suggests that something early and effective is possible - that success or failure in Central America is a palpable and realisable concept. It is not. The meetings of the Contadora Group of Latin nations continue off and on as a permanent consultative process, which more befits a situation without promise of early relief.

Europeans should exercise the same patience with members of President Reagan's Administration. They should not yield to the temptation to be too wise, and thus too unmoved by American preoccupations. It may seem a distant threat to Europeans. They may argue that President Reagan is guilty of the simplest form of geo-politics. However they should not forget that half of the supplies destined for NATO in an emergency would originate from ports in the Mexican Gulf, and that, as the Falklands emergency almost showed, when the interests of hemisphere and the interests of Atlantic allies compete for attention in Washington, the hemisphere may have the advantage.

PREJUDICE IN PERSONNEL

As yet Britain's cities have escaped any major outbreaks of the summer street violence which broke out so suddenly in 1981 and then so strikingly confounded the prophecies of the apocalyptically minded by failing to recur in last year's lukewarm summer. But it would be complacent to overlook the danger of fresh outbreaks as long as high unemployment remains endemic among young people in the cities and the disparities of opportunity between races are felt to be based on prejudice. Unemployment among young whites in the cities is 41 per cent today, while among West Indians it is 59 per cent.

This makes it all the more necessary to ensure that the means of minimizing racial discrimination are effective and fair to both sides in a dispute. The Act of 1976 set up an unduly cumbersome framework, and the Commission for Racial Equality - at once a campaigning and an investigative body - is an awkward mixture of fish and flesh. The inordinate delays in completing investigations into alleged abuses, which the CRE complains of this week in its paper on improving the Act, are due partly to the CRE's own omissions, as well as to a procedure which reflects the scope for delay inherent in the workings of the Act. Moreover the compensation at the end of the wearisome process is often so small that it is no surprise that complainants eventually lose

interest and precedents consequently fail to get established. So little case-law exists.

Courts and industrial tribunals are reluctant to find a case proved when they hear so few cases and have so few guidelines. The CRE's suggestion of special tribunals for racial and sexual discrimination, to build up experience in this special field, has its attractions. But apart from the obvious problems of cost and accessibility, it is better if possible to handle these issues within the ordinary framework of civil and industrial law, rather than segregate them in a separate category.

The most far-reaching of the CRE's proposals is to make it mandatory for employers to keep ethnic records of appointments and promotions, which could be examined if discrimination is alleged. Direct and overt racial bias is rare in this context and very hard to prove on the evidence of an individual case. Indirect bias even if deliberately concealed could perhaps be demonstrated over a period, if adequate records were kept. But given the state of employment, and the need to encourage some expansion of recruitment in small business, these procedures would have to be confined to companies employing say, more than 50 people. That would relieve small companies of an unnecessary burden of paperwork, and an inhibition on recruitment caused by a fear that they might fall foul of the law.

Indirect discrimination, already illegal, includes such incidental bars as educational stipulations irrelevant to the job in question, or word-of-mouth recruiting practices which may prevent coloured candidates from hearing of vacancies. Such practices may discriminate unfairly even without conscious intent by the employer. It would have to be for applicants themselves to identify themselves by race for the record. It would be quite wrong to impose such a judgment on a prospective employer, even if this resulted in incomplete records. We have to accept that the interests of a sound social policy on race need more information than people are prepared to give.

The CRE goes on to propose that in direct discrimination cases the burden of proof should be reversed, so that once less favourable treatment had been established, there would be a presumption that intentional bias was to blame, unless the employer could show otherwise. A parallel already exists, in the law regarding unfair dismissal. In indirect discrimination, where intent does not have to be proved, the CRE proposes that the employer should have to pay compensation even if the discrimination was entirely unconscious and innocent. Both these proposals are quite unacceptable distortions to the British process.

Dr Banda's Eton

From Mrs Lucie Penn
Sir, As the only white woman governor of Kamuzu Academy I feel that I should take issue with Dr Ian Kimble (July 14) when he feels that the creation of the high scholastically rated school, Kamuzu Academy, staffed entirely by white English and Scottish honours graduates in all subjects and Latin to nuclear physics, reduces the standing of Dr Banda's own University of Malawi at Zomba.

But that is not so. The university has an excellent vice-chancellor in Dr Kimble, an Englishman of wide experience in organization and teaching in various parts of Africa. But it is not easy to tempt professors

from Europe, USA or England to go to a newly developing country in central Africa. So the Malawi graduates are valuable, teaching in the existing, old primary and secondary schools in the south.

However, when Dr Banda returned to his native country to help establish its independence, he had spent twenty years as a doctor of medicine in the USA, Scotland and England, during which time he had come to realize that only the highest possible standards in schools could produce the best university scholars.

He decided that Kamuzu Academy must produce school leavers, boys and girls, who could be accepted by Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard or Yale. These pupils are accepted by ability; if too poor to

pay, they go free. Several others are simply chosen to represent different districts.

All teacher applicants are interviewed in London, by Malawi men of distinction who fly over especially, sometimes chaired by Dr Kimble. In addition three white men, a London banker, a Scottish surgeon and a former provost of Edinburgh make up our number of English up to four, so that we can more easily help sum up the character as well as qualifications of applicants.

Yours faithfully,
LUCIE PENN,
Warminghurst,
High Hurstwood,
Sussex.
July 15.

Extending limits of parole

From the Chairman of the Parole Board

Sir, If a reduction in the level of criminal offending is now a high national priority, as I believe both Parliament and public opinion judge it to be, can we afford to postpone for much longer the additional protection to the public which would result from selecting more offenders to serve the balance of their sentences under supervision in the community?

The alternative of remaining in prison until the last moment means a man coming out cold. If he is of no fixed address, with no family or home to go to and without employment prospects, the chances of returning to his old ways and re-offending are high.

Supervision of parolees in the community, with specific reporting and residential conditions (sometimes in probation hostels), and with the sanction of recall to prison in the event of bad behaviour, cannot eliminate the risk of re-offending. But it can and does greatly reduce it.

The Home Secretary has the power, given to him by Parliament in the Criminal Justice Act last year, to extend by order the limits of parole by altering the minimum period of eligibility for release on licence.

A reduction in the minimum statutory period from twelve months to six months, provided that one third of the sentence had been served, would result in a substantial increase in the number of prisoners qualifying for parole consideration.

While extra costs would arise in reporting on more shorter term prisoners and assessing their suitability for parole, and also in the proper supervision by the Probation Service of those who are so released, has not the time come to press for the introduction of this constructive contribution to policies of crime reduction?

Yours faithfully,
WINDLESHAM, Chairman,
Parole Board,
50 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1,
July 20.

Dispute at 'FT'

From the Managing Director of the Financial Times
Sir, Mr Booroff's letter in today's *Times* (July 19) fails to relate to the issue of the mediators' substantive recommendations on the settlement of the dispute which the NGA has still failed to accept, despite advice from ACAS and the TUC that they should do so. Does Mr Booroff think that everyone, other than the NGA, is wrong on the issues involved?

Since January, 1981, the *Financial Times* machine minders' wages will have risen by some 22 per cent. Furthermore, this increase allows for a reduction on the working week from five days to four days, as well as a holiday entitlement of some six weeks. The NGA can scarcely claim that we have failed to negotiate on their alleged grievances.

The *Financial Times* is losing £1m a week on the dispute, the strikers £120,000 a week. The solution is delayed by the NGA's refusal so far to accept the mediators' recommendations and trade unions' procedural delays. Is this wise?

Yours faithfully,
R. A. F. McCLEAN,
Managing Director,
Financial Times,
Bracken House,
10 Cannon Street, EC4,
July 19.

Solicitors' charges

From Mr Thomas Woodcock
Sir, As the creator of *The Expense of Time* and the principal author of the original editions I must take issue with the misleading references to it by Alastair Brett in his article of July 9.

The booklet is not, as Mr Brett states, a guide to how to work out a charging rate. It merely, as is clearly stated in the introductions to the first two editions, provides a means of "establishing the expense to the solicitor of doing his work" and "does not deal with establishing what is a fair fee to charge a client in a particular case."

In very simple terms *The Expense of Time* provides anyone who uses it, be he an architect, an accountant or a lawyer, with a barometer. If he charges less than the figure it registers more often than he bargains above it he will find at the end of the year, even if there is a small reward for his work, it will be inadequate.

In short, the booklet provides the user with a means of allocating to each job he does by reference to the time spent on it the proportion of his current annual overhead expenses which have been devoted to it.

Yours truly,
THOMAS WOODCOCK,
Well View,
Haslingden,
Rossendale,
Lancashire,
July 14.

Fortress Falklands

From Sir Miles Clifford
Sir, In a letter from me which you were good enough to publish on June 16 last year I suggested that the Islands should be established as a Nato base and received a number of letters endorsing this proposal. The sole objection ever offered to me is that it was geographically, a contradiction in terms, this, of course I accept and was well aware of when I wrote. May I make the following points in further urging acceptance of this proposal?

1. Fortress Falklands, entailing as it does a larger military establishment (with the addition of naval and air force units and the essential administrative tail) than the entire civil population, cannot pose a happy social situation for the islanders.

2. With a change of government

The other facts of Israel's economy

From the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Israel

Sir, Recently (June 20, 21, 22) your paper ran a three-part series (June 23) followed by an editorial on Israel. Much of the material was devoted to Israel's economy. One could respond to the articles on two levels: fact and opinion. I would like, however, to restrict myself to facts. The reader can then decide how much trust he is willing to put in the opinions quoted.

Let me start with a fact nowhere mentioned: that Israel's defence burden fluctuates between one quarter and one third of gnp (compared to about five per cent for the United Kingdom). As for the points mentioned: first, the IMF did not offer any loan to Israel, as Professor Assaf Razin claims. As the official who was charged with coordinating the visit of the IMF mission to Israel I am also fully aware of the mission's numbers which, in this case, matter. Israel's banks alone own over \$5b. Non-banking assets amount to a similar sum. Israeli banks deposit in foreign banks more than the latter lend to Israel.

Consequently, though Israel certainly depends on, and is grateful for American aid, the picture is far from being as grim as your reporter would have it.

Yours sincerely,
Y. PLESSNER,
Deputy Governor,
Bank of Israel,
P.O. Box 780,
Jerusalem,
July 6.

Rules on life jackets

From Professor D. E. Newland

Sir, According to your front page report today (July 19) it appears that the Civil Aviation Authority's rules do not require life jackets to be demonstrated on flights which take less than 30 minutes.

If this is true, is it not a matter of serious public concern? When an aircraft ditches at sea, the emergency procedure is (1) release seat belt, (2) put on life jacket, (3) leave aircraft, (4) inflate life jacket. Speed is of the essence. If passengers do not know where to find how to put on a life jacket, their chance of survival are greatly reduced. I do not have statistics, but

British Airways top management does not appreciate the *esprit de corps* found in smaller more efficient airlines. It is difficult in the present atmosphere among British Airways employees to imagine them volunteering to present their management with a free Boeing aircraft as a gesture of their loyalty as in the case of Delta Airlines recently.

It is a fairly easy matter to sack people at random; it is quite another matter to build a loyal and highly competent team to meet the competitive challenge of the airline industry today.

Yours faithfully,
CLAIR M. WATERBURY,
(retired Vice-President,
Philippine Airlines),
46 The Little Boltons, SW10,
July 13.

Clerical habits

From The Reverend Giles Hunt
Sir, It was cruelly to parish priests to print Eric Evans's letter on locked churches and Angela Wheatcroft's on clerical habits on the same day (July 9). Mr Evans's assurance that "where there's a will there's a way" was merely irritating, but Ms Wheatcroft teases us on purpose.

But behind her dig at the incompetence of clergy untrained in management skills lies an often unrecognised problem. It is easy to enlist lay enthusiasm and talent for any "one-off" enterprise, from a Church fete upwards. But very few lay are both able and willing to undertake any regular commitment, such as Sunday schools, youth clubs, and sick visiting require.

This is partly because of a low level of Christian commitment (even some parochial church council or deanery synod members fail to fulfil the minimum obligation of attending worship each Sunday), partly because with modern mobility many laity have family and other commitments that make them often unavailable at weekends and after work during the week.

Most voluntary organisations, and even political parties, find the same difficulty, compounded, as the experience of political parties shows, by the fact that some of those who are able and willing to devote themselves wholeheartedly are way-out extremists.

But this is not to knock the faithful few who do give unassuming, devoted and invaluable voluntary service, which can indeed put the parish priest to shame.

Yours faithfully,
GILES HUNT,
Preston Vicarage,
Preston Lane,
Faversham,
Kent.

or a worsening economic climate, it is safe to assume that the garrison would be substantially reduced, if not withdrawn, when the Argentines would at once return to the attack.

3. With the loss of Simonstown, the Western Alliance has now no base at all in the South Atlantic, with the result that the eastern coast of South America and West Africa are both wide open to Soviet infiltration and in the event of a third world war our communications would be in jeopardy.

4. When Nato was created the Soviet had not, as they now have, an enormously powerful three-ocean navy and an equally powerful air force.

5. The personnel of a Nato base need be little more than "notional" for the Argentines would never dare to confront such a representation.

6. Since the Falklands would then be secure for as far as we can see

with the claim by Mr Gad Yaacobi that \$600m to \$700m could be saved by cutting the "huge" transfers to the West Bank. The truth is that the correct amount is virtually unidentifiable, because it is spread over many government departments.

But in any case, only a fraction of the mentioned sum can be identified as funds spent there which would not have been spent otherwise. For example, spending on public housing would have occurred anyway. West Bank or not. Moreover, many of the West Bank projects are highly profitable, because they are implemented in areas that are at once uncrowded and close to Israel's economic centre. Such advantages do not exist in Israel proper.

Finally, the accompanying table mentions that Israel's foreign debt figures are gross, ignoring Israel's foreign assets. But your Jerusalem Correspondent does not mention numbers which, in this case, matter. Israel's banks alone own over \$5b. Non-banking assets amount to a similar sum. Israeli banks deposit in foreign banks more than the latter lend to Israel.

Consequently, though Israel certainly depends on, and is grateful for American aid, the picture is far from being as grim as your reporter would have it.

Yours sincerely,
Y. PLESSNER,
Deputy Governor,
Bank of Israel,
P.O. Box 780,
Jerusalem,
July 6.

I suspect that a helicopter on a short sea crossing is just as likely to land in the water as a jumbo jet on an international flight.

This matter probably had nothing to do with the loss of life in the recent helicopter disaster. But if the CAA rules are as you appear to say they are, I hope that the Secretary of State for Transport will think it right to re-examine the premises on which these rules have been formulated and to give a public explanation which will reassure us that these and other CAA rules are soundly based.

Yours sincerely,
D. E. NEWLAND,
University Engineering Department,
Trumpington Street, Cambridge,
July 19.

British Airways top management does not appreciate the *esprit de corps* found in smaller more efficient airlines. It is difficult in the present atmosphere among British Airways employees to imagine them volunteering to present their management with a free Boeing aircraft as a gesture of their loyalty as in the case of Delta Airlines recently.

It is a fairly easy matter to sack people at random; it is quite another matter to build a loyal and highly competent team to meet the competitive challenge of the airline industry today.

Yours faithfully,
CLAIR M. WATERBURY,
(retired Vice-President,
Philippine Airlines),
46 The Little Boltons, SW10,
July 13.

National Gallery funds

From Mr William Chubb
Sir, On July 11 the National Gallery unveiled its latest acquisition, a magnificent canvas by Luca Giordano, bought from a London dealer for a figure rumoured to be about £200,000. Almost exactly two years ago the same picture, correctly catalogued, but unstretched and uncleaned, was sold at Christie's to the same dealer for £38,000.

The National Gallery is allowed to maintain secrecy over how it spends its government funds. This latest purchase, however, would seem to suggest that this privilege is being abused to subsidise the London art market.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM CHUBB,
39 Elgin Crescent, W11,
July 16.

Salad days

From Mrs Mary Z. Hancock
Sir, How right Mrs Jamieson surely is about the English lettuce (July 13), but why does the London green-grocer ignore our sugar-cos from the Fens - succulent, dark green leaves protecting a great crisp yellow heart? And then in the meagre winter why do our market-gardens deny us the subtle delights of lamb's lettuce or corn salad - robust, easy to grow and harvest, and surely a European original with such a wealth of still current names like *mollusini*, *mâche*, *Feldsalat*, *douce*, *gallinelle*, *Rapunzel* and, not the least, *Salade Lorette*, and doubtless a host of others between here and the Urals.

Yours faithfully,
MARY Z. HANCOCK,
6 Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge,
July 13.

into the future and their accustomed way of life no longer circumscribed, I suggest there can be no doubt that they would welcome this solution.

7. In conclusion, we would do well to recall the prophetic words of Lord Anson in 1740:

It is scarcely to be conceived of what prodigious import a convenient station [here] might prove situated so far to the southward and so near Cape Storm ... this even in time of peace might be of great consequence to this nation and in time of war would make us mistress of the seas.

A conclusion which must have been in the minds of our leaders in World Wars I and II; to satisfy the purists we could omit the "N" from Nato or modify the terms of the treaty?

I am, Sir, yours truly,
MILES CLIFFORD,
The Athenaeum,
Pall Mall, SW1,
July 14.

Doubts on Hawaii telescope

From Professor H. A. Gebbie

Sir, Astronomers have become the big spenders among British scientists and the time has come to restrain them. There are, however, more urgent actions needed than merging the national observatories and selling off Herstonmore, however reasonable these projects might be.

The astronomers' latest extravagance is a second telescope about to be built in Hawaii at a cost to the UK taxpayers of nearly £6m. It would bring their maintenance bill there up to £1.5m per annum.

There are three reasons for questioning the soundness of this project. Firstly, it is not clear that adequate preparatory work has been done to show that a submillimetre wave telescope will work with acceptable efficiency on the Mauna Kea site. Secondly, it may be "old hat" in the face of competition from high altitude or space observing techniques. It was conceived in the late sixties but fifteen years of inflation have made its cost too high considering its likely performance. Finally, its promoters misinterpret as a British opportunity what should be a warning. Their American counterparts, despite cheaper access to Hawaii, opted out of a similar project.

British astronomers have been generously supported over the last twenty years and as a result have had conspicuous successes in the radio, ultraviolet, and X-ray wavelength regions. But they should not expect this for every branch of their subject. Recently they have probably had about another £10m to buy their way into the Infra-red Astronomical Satellite (IRAS) which was initiated in the United States.

The capital amount that the British taxpayer is putting into the new telescope would support about 200 research students for three years, or about 50 average "small science" research projects for the same time. There is no doubt in my mind that either of these alternatives would do more for innovation and for the well being of the next generation than would be achieved by building the new telescope.

Yours faithfully,
H. A. GEBBIE,
Department of Electrical Engineering,
Imperial College of Science & Technology,
Exhibition Road, SW7.

Before the 'think tank'

From Mr Gordon Bradshaw

Sir, Mrs Ianthe Bradshaw's letter (July 13) is most interesting but surely Churchill did not initial memoranda - W.C. One simply wishes to believe this, he had too keen a sense of the ridiculous. My recollection of facsimile letters and memoranda is that he invariably used the initials WSC.

On the general subject of cabinet administration, it is to be noted that on April 26, 1942, Churchill issued a memorandum which read:

I am astounded to see the number of copies that were struck off this "All Most Secret and Personal" telegram. Who is responsible for this? Shall we then govern such distributions. I intend to bring the matter before the Cabinet.

Perhaps there is a lesson here for the present administration in view of the increasing number of leaks of important documents which are a rather ugly feature of the modern political scene.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON BRADSHAW,
Fairways,
Lathbury Avenue,
Lymington, Hampshire.

Any advance on 545-9?

From Mr Christopher Booker

Sir, Carrying a page of your issue on July 4 in my compost heap, I have been led to observe a curious coincidence. In their game against Somerset at Taunton, the New Zealand touring team scored no less than 544 for 9 declared, without a single batsman reaching a century - there were three 80's, number 11 scored 60 and the only batsman not in double figures was the first man in who scored a duck.

For some time now I have been idly trying to discover what is the highest total when no one made a century (a statistic not recorded in any of the usual reference books). Had the New Zealanders at Taunton not declared at 544 they might have beaten the highest score I have been able to find - 545, also for 9 wickets, also at Taunton, by Somerset against Hampshire in 1930. On that occasion the whole team reached double figures, with J. C. White (88) the highest score, and number 11 on 80 not out. Can anyone improve on this?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER BOOKER
The Old Shop,
Lymington, Hampshire.

Land of hope

From Mr Colin R. Stonelake

Sir, Since the Government has, in its wisdom, decided to abolish the GLC, would it not be too much to ask for the return of the county of Middlesex and for the remainder of the GLC to return to the counties from which they were wrested in 1965?

Middlesex, although abolished 18 years ago, has refused to die. It is included as part of the postal address, it has its own (very good) cricket team and those avid followers of the Boat Race will have heard of the Middlesex Station, not the Greater London left bank.

Surely we now deserve official recognition? I remain, yours faithfully,
COLIN R. STONELAKE,
85 Belmont Road,
Uxbridge,
Middlesex,
July 11.

Investment and Finance

City Editor
Anthony Hilton

NEWSPAPER TIMES

City Office
200 Gray's Inn Road
London WC1X 8EZ
Telephone 01-837 1234

STOCK EXCHANGES

T Index: 704.4 up 4.7
 T All Share: 80.45 up 0.13
 T All Share: 445.71 up 0.94
 (datastream estimate)
 LARGAINS: 18.705
 LARGAINS: USM Leaders
 Index: Not available
 New York Dow Jones
 Average (latest) 1211.84 up 14.72
 Hongkong: Hang Sang Index
 095.22 up 6.84
 Amsterdam: Index 143.6 up 1.9
 Frankfurt: Commerzbank
 Index 965.00 up 4.4
 Sydney: AO Index 655.3 up 1.3
 Brussels: General Index
 128.80 up 0.46
 Paris: C A C Index 125.7 up 1.7
 Zurich: S K A Index 287.8 up 1.3
 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones
 Index 8927.32 up 60.66

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE
 Sterling \$1.5255 up 70pts
 Index 84.5 unchanged
 DM3.9325 down 0.0075
 FF11.7125 down 0.1275
 Yen 365.25 down 0.50
Dollar
 Index 125.7 down 0.5
 DM 2.5745

NEW YORK LATEST
 Sterling \$1.5250
INTERNATIONAL
 ECU 20.575954
 SDR 20.697464

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
 Bank base rate 9 1/2%
 Finance houses base rate 10 1/2%
 Discount market loans week
 fixed 9 1/2-9 3/4%
 3 month interbank 9 1/2-9 3/4%
Euro-currency rates:
 3 month dollar 9 1/2-9 3/4%
 3 month DM 5 1/2-5 3/4%
 3 month FF 14 1/2-14%
US rates:
 Bank prime rate 10.50
 Fed funds 9%
 Treasury long bond 92 19/32-92 23/32
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling
 Export Finance Scheme IV
 Average reference rate for
 interest period June 2 to July 5,
 1983 inclusive 9.878 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce): am
 \$426, pm \$428.25
 close \$428.75
New York latest: 428.25
 Kruggerand (per coin): \$441-442.50 (\$289-290)
Sovereigns* (new) \$100.50-101.50 (\$65.75-66.50)
 *excludes VAT.

TODAY

Interims: Bullough, Elandsrand
 Gold Mining Company; Ford
 (Martin) Goal Petroleum, Independent
 Investment, YJ Lovell
 (Holdings), Meggitt Holdings,
 South African Land (Div), Tace,
 Vast Reefs Exploration and
 Mining Company (Div), Western
 Deep, Wiloughby consolidated.
Finals: Atlantic Assets Trust
 BET, Gus, Linford, William
 Ronsam, Renold.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Bardon Hill Group, Bardon Hill,
 Leicester (11.30).
 Boots, The Chartered
 Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury
 EC2 (11.00).
 Burnett & Hallamshire, Cutler's
 Hall, Church Street, Sheffield (noon).
 Centrovital Estates, 6
 Saville Row, W1 (10.00).
 Century Oils Group, Grand
 Hotel, Trinity Street, Hanley,
 Stoke-on-Trent (noon).
 Courtaulds, Europa Hotel
 (Westminster Suite) Grosvenor
 Square, W1 (10.45).
 Edbro (Holdings), Charing
 Cross Hotel, WC2 (11.30).
 Eitel, London International
 Press Centre, New Street
 Square, EC4 (noon).
 Leigh Interests, Chamber of
 Commerce, 75 Harborne Road,
 Edgbaston, Birmingham
 (noon).
 Thomas Locker (Holdings), Church
 Street, Warrington (11.00).
 London & Associated Investment
 Trust, Clement House, 99
 Aldwych, WC2 (noon).
 The Pension Fund Property
 Unit Trust, Café Royal, 68
 Regent Street, W1 (noon).
 Physa, The Brewery Conference
 Centre, Chiswell Street, EC1 (noon).
 St. Samuel, Hunters Road,
 Birmingham (noon).
 Valor, Tallow Chandlers Hall, 4
 Dowgate Hill, EC2 (noon).
 West's Group International,
 Chartered Insurance Institute,
 20 Aldermanbury EC2 (11.00).

Depreciation bill of £1.5bn as corporation writes off assets more quickly

Telecom charges may rise after unexpected dip in profits

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

British Telecom, the Government's Most Lustrous candidate for privatization, tarnished its financial image yesterday by announcing an unexpected fall in profits for the previous year.

Analysts have been looking for a 1982-83 profit above £500m on the basis of Telecom's sparkling results for the first half of the year. But the figures were depressed by a decision to write off switching equipment more quickly, the new depreciation policy is likely to affect profits for a number of years.

Sir George Jefferson, the chairman, said that some telephone charges must rise this year if Telecom is to meet the Government's financial objectives. But any increases would be "very modest" - no more than 3.3 per cent overall - and would not take effect before November, two years after the last increase.

Proposals will soon be put to the Post Office Users National Council, the statutory consumer watchdog for postal and telephone services. "We will be looking at the proposals very critically," a POUNC spokesman said, "in the light of the Government's financial target and British Telecom's performance in reducing costs, which has not been very good."



Sir George: Telecom's performance "generally satisfactory".

price freeze, the main reason for the fall in profit was a £276m increase in depreciation charges to £1.451m. Telecom is writing off its assets more quickly in response to accelerating technological changes and to the competition expected as a result of the Government's liberalization programme.

Both factors reduce the working life of the equipment, especially telephone exchanges. Sir George pointed out that the profit, though below last year's record, still represented a 5.8 per cent return on capital employed, compared with the Government target of 5.5 per cent. (The official target for 1983-84 is 6.5 per cent.)

In the annual report, Sir George looks to a bright future for Telecom as a public limited company. The Telecommunications Bill, which is likely to be on the statute book by the New Year, provides "a workable basis for taking British Telecom into the private sector."

Disappointment with the 1982-83 profit has not affected the City's enthusiasm for the long-term financial prospects of a privatized British Telecom. Profits of billions of pounds a year are expected by the late 1980s as Telecom benefits from its new electronic switching equipment, the growth of conventional telecommunications and expansion into new services such as cable television.

Volcker 'to maintain monetary growth'

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The US Federal Reserve Board removed some of the upward pressure on interest rates yesterday by announcing a compromise monetary policy for the next six months. This will allow growth at present or slightly reduced levels.

Instead of reining in sharply the recent big growth in money supply, as financial markets had feared the Fed has decided to live with the growth for the rest of this year. Next year it will try to curtail credit slightly.

Sir Paul Volcker, Fed chairman, said the new targets "by themselves do not necessarily imply either further interest rate pressures or the reverse in the period ahead."

Much will depend on further progress in reducing the enormous US Federal deficit and on adequate funding for the International Monetary Fund, Mr Volcker said in presenting his mid-year economic report to Congress.

Failure by Congress to approve additional new funds of \$5.5bn (£5.6bn) for the IMF in a vote scheduled for tomorrow would also put upward pressure on interest rates, Mr Volcker said.

Mr Volcker said he was heartened by the economic progress over the past six months.

Inflation had abated, the economy had begun a strong recovery, and unemployment was beginning to drop and would be down to 9.5 per cent this year and to 8.5 per cent by the end of 1984.

The Fed is staying with its present broad target for monetary growth for the more comprehensive M2 and M3 money supply measures to allow growth to continue without generating new fears of inflation.

The decision on the more sensitive and narrower M1 measure of money was more difficult, Mr Volcker said. In this area, the Fed raised its target for the rest of the year to a range of between 5 per cent and 9 per cent, but lowered it to a range of 4 per cent to 8 per cent for 1984.

This shows that the Fed is prepared to live with the large bulge in the US money supply which began in late January for the moment, but to moderate this growth for the rest of the year and decrease it slightly next year.

Mr Volcker referred to the decision as "modest and timely action to restrain excessive growth in money and liquidity," considering the strong recovery.

Mr Volcker was not yet ready to endorse a return to the fixed exchange rate system but he said that this "may be on our agenda in the future."

turn to the positive with the clear change to a flexible policy at the Fed. Further Treasury receipts already are rising from the improving economy.

American Telephone & Telegraph was trading at 62 1/2, up 1/2; International Business Machines 122 1/2, up 2; General Electric 51 1/2, up 1/2; American Express 68 1/2, up 1/2; Citicorp 59 1/2, up 1/2; General Motors 74 3/4, up 1/2; Bell & Howell 56 1/2, up 1/2; NCR 118 1/2, up 2 1/2; Lockheed 117 1/2, up 2 1/2; Merck 95, up 2 1/2; and Burlington Northern 91 1/2, up 1 1/2.

Warner Communications was off 1/2 at 22 1/2; and Commodore International off 1 at 50 1/2. Communications Satellite up 3/4 at 59 1/2; Motorola up 1/2 at 35 1/2; Diebold up 1 at 83; Sanders Associates up 2 at 102; Baxter Travenol up 1 1/2 at 60 1/2.

Nothing could be more calculated to make for more delay and expense than to have the liquidator not merely dealing with their enormous difficulties of this liquidation, but also having to defend the investors' action," the judge said.

He refused leave to appeal.

But it is open to the investors to apply to the Court of Appeal for leave. Their lawyers said that active consideration would be given to the possibility of an appeal.

The judge accepted undertaking by the Official Receiver that he would apply to the court as soon as possible to determine the issues raised by the investors.

The investors are seeking to establish that they have trust interests which would put them in a better position in recovering money from the Hunt companies than they would be in as mere creditors. The judge ruled that they had an "arguable case."

About 2,000 investors are claiming more than £15m in the liquidation. A further £840,000 is being claimed by other creditors.

Mr John Austin Sell, Official Receiver and provisional liquidator of Ecom and the nine other Hunt companies, all based in Warwick, has estimated the overall deficiency provisionally at £11.9m.

The judge said that, since the liquidator had undertaken to look before the court, "in a neutral fashion," the issue of whether the various classes of investors had trust interests, it was unnecessary to allow a separate action.

One consideration urged by the investors that had carried most weight, the judge said, was that Mr Hunt personally was intended to be a party to their action.

Race to change SE rules

By Philip Robinson

New rules which will save the Stock Exchange facing the Restrictive Practices Court may need to be ready within two weeks.

A parliamentary order is needed as part of the process to stop court action and the Commons goes into recess at the end of the month until late October.

By the time Parliament resumes, the court will have wanted the final exchange of evidence from the Stock Exchange and the Office of Fair Trading, which has brought the action.

Talks between Sir Nicholas Goodison, Stock Exchange chairman, and the Department of Trade about alternative rules to avoid a court case, has caused some surprise among its members.

Sir Nicholas is understood to have apologised to the 46 members of the ruling Council at their routine meeting on Tuesday for not alerting them to the talks. He stressed that they were extremely confidential.

In fact, few people are believed to have been told that talks have been going on for six months.

Whitehall sources were suggesting that the Exchange has already been given a fairly clear idea of what changes the Government will accept for dropping the court case.

This would have allowed the small sub-committee of Exchange members and staff to have drawn up at least a discussion document.

The full proposals will have to be approved by the Exchange Council.

Further details are likely to emerge tomorrow.

On Tuesday Mrs Thatcher at Prime Minister's question time said a statement on the proposals would have to be made to the Commons before the court action could be stopped.

Her statement signalled an about-turn by the Government, which had insisted that the Stock Exchange case must go before the court.

The move could well meet stiff opposition within the Commons and senior exchange members were saying last night that the case to preserve the existing system was strong enough to win even in court.

Indian Navy order may top £200m

By John Lawless and Rodney Cowton

Britain has received orders from the Indian Navy for helicopters and missiles which may ultimately be worth more than £200m. They are believed to be among the largest industrial contracts ever won by Britain in India.

The orders are for Westland Mark 42B helicopters, with an anti-ship missile. It is understood that the orders were gained against fierce French competition.

They were announced by Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister of State for Defence Procurement, yesterday as he opened the second day of the debate of the defence estimates in the Commons.

Neither the Ministry of Defence nor the three companies which have won the contracts would give details.

Indian sources said the order was initially for 12 Sea King Mark 42B helicopters, with an option on a further eight. The package is believed to include supply of spare engines and other parts, and training in the use of the equipment.

The value of the contracts will be greatly influenced by the size of the spares package, but if the option for the additional eight helicopters is exercised, it seems likely that the total could be between £200m and £300m.

It is the first export order for British Aerospace's new sea-skimming Sea Eagle missile. The Sea Eagle successfully completed firing trials recently. It is believed to be much superior to the French Exocet missile. Britain has ordered the Sea Eagle for two squadrons of RAF Buccaneer aircraft and the Royal Navy's Sea Harriers.

India already has Sea King helicopters powered by the Rolls Royce Gnome engine but the latest contract came in spite of intense competition from Aerospatiale the French firm which was offering its Puma helicopter.

Mr John Nott made a special case for Sea Kings when he visited India as Defence Secretary last year. But, as three years of negotiations reached a critical stage, President Mitterrand is understood to have made a late attempt to snatch the order with a personal plea to Mrs Gandhi.

Go-ahead for two N Sea gas fields expected

IN BRIEF

Go-ahead for two gas developments in the southern North Sea is expected to be announced shortly, adding substance to the Government's forecasts of a new boom in offshore oil and gas activity.

The Department of Energy has approved plans by Amoco for its East Leman project, designed to tap additional reserves in the already developed Leman field. And Conoco, another American oil company, is expected to announce in the next few days that it is going ahead with development of the Victor field 50 miles north east of Yarmouth.

Partners in Victor include Mobil and Britoil. The project is believed to cost in the region of £90m with gas reserves of about 700,000 million cubic feet. The two projects reflect the higher gas prices now being offered for North Sea gas supplies by the British Gas Corporation.

MERCURY APPROVAL: Mercury, British Telecom's new private competitor, expects shortly to receive Government approval to operate the full international telecommunications service, independent of British Telecom.

TI GROUP 'DEAL': Alfred Herbert, the machine tool company that went into receivership for the second time in April, is believed to have been bought by the TI Group in a deal that should be finalized within three weeks.

City Editor's Comment

Figures with a town hall twist

As soon as the money supply figures return to centre stage in the economic argument, technical mists grow ever thicker to obscure their import. The latest episode in this resumed saga is revealed in a new monetary bulletin from Messrs Greenwell, which has taught the authorities much about money over the years.

Essentially, what Greenwell shows is that about half the excess monetary growth since February, above the 11 per cent top end of the target, is caused by smart local authority treasurers exploiting the Bank of England's elephantine efforts to keep our unassailable demand for money consistent with artificial targets without having even higher interest rates.

Figures for spending are not fully available but local authorities and public corporations deposited an extra £271m with banks in the four months to June and there is anecdotal evidence to suggest they have cut borrowing from other sources by up to £750m.

The town hall treasurers, quite correctly in their own terms, have been indulging in interest arbitrage operations (round-tripping as it was known elsewhere) in response to the Bank's money control measures. "Absurdity has led to further absurdity," according to Greenwell.

Three conclusions stand out. If half the excess rise in the money figures is due to this technical reason, they may not seem so alarming. The figures themselves are as ludicrously distorted as ever.

Time and experience seem to make little difference, so that as exceptional figures follow the bank "corset" or the civil service strike, so there are always new distortions.

Most important, it is clear that, whatever the cause, the amount of credit slopping round the economy remains dangerously high. That may not cause extra inflation, the supposed reason for keeping the money figures down. But it may well breed financial instability in markets, leading to a financial crisis and wholly unnecessary damage to the real economy. It will be ignored at our peril.

As the latest central statistical office figures show, companies borrowed an extra £400m net from banks in the six months to March, but £1.8bn from other sources, leading to a £2.4bn rise in their financial assets despite a sharp downturn in their financial position between the last quarter of 1982 (a £1.8bn surplus) and the first quarter of 1983 (a £400m deficit). Not a great success, this.

The local authority square dance is even more bizarre. Government made it progressively easier for local authorities to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board, financed from sales of gilt-edged stock, in

Provision for loan losses was \$20m, double those of a year earlier.

SHARES SALE: Mercantile has sold 335,200 shares in Milford Docks to a consortium headed by Mr Michael Davies. Mercantile and the consortium each now hold 14.95 per cent in Milford Docks.

STEEL PROPOSAL: The European Commission has proposed further small cuts to the British steel industry. Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in the Commons yesterday. "We are considering our response and will take into consideration comments on both sides of the House," he added.

New Services, Inc.

a wholly owned subsidiary of

GrandMet USA, Inc.

has acquired approximately 96% of the outstanding Common Stock of

Children's World, Inc.

The undersigned acted as financial advisor to GrandMet USA, Inc. and as dealer manager for the Tender Offer in this transaction.

MORGAN STANLEY & CO.
Incorporated

July 18, 1983

Gencor Group

Gold Mining Companies' Reports for the Quarter ended 30 June 1983

All companies mentioned are incorporated in the Republic of South Africa

ST. HELENA Gold Mines Limited

Issued capital - 9 825 000 ordinary shares of R1 each.
- 10 115 070 cumulative preference shares of R1 each.

Operating results	Quarter ended 30.6.1983	Quarter ended 31.3.1983	6 months ended 30.6.1983
GOLD			
Mined (m ³)	130 853	131 405	262 258
Ore milled (t)	575 000	565 000	1 140 000
Gold produced (kg)	3 584	3 497	7 081
Yield (g/t)	6.3	6.2	6.3
Working revenue (R/m ³ mined)	83.32	104.66	98.89
Working costs (R/m ³ mined)	44.15	42.09	43.14
Working income (R/m ³ mined)	39.17	62.57	55.75
Working income (R/kg)	14.896	16.679	15.726
Gold price received (R/kg)	426	475	451

Beisa Section			
GOLD			
Mined (m ³)	71 029	57 573	128 602
Ore milled (t)	262 000	228 000	490 000
Gold produced (kg)	307	282	589
Yield (g/t)	1.17	1.24	1.20

Financial results (R'000)			
GOLD			
Working revenue	53 659	58 087	111 746
Working costs	25 387	23 360	48 747
Working income	28 272	34 727	62 999
Sundry income	1 776	1 542	3 318
Income before taxation and State's share of income	30 048	36 269	66 317
Taxation and State's share of income	16 786	14 728	31 524
Income after taxation and State's share of income	13 262	21 541	34 793
Capital expenditure	3 191	9 919	13 110
Dividend declared	24 063	2 685	24 063

Development			
St. Helena			
Advanced (m)	2 874	2 193	5 067
Advanced on reef (m)	528	577	1 105
Sampled (m)	492	519	1 011
Channel width (cm)	104	133	90
Average value - gold (g/t)	12.1	2.6	15.5
Average value - gold (cm.g/t)	1 263	346	1 391

Beisa Section - Beisa Reef			
GOLD			
Advanced (m)	4 964	4 778	9 742
Advanced on reef (m)	876	1 095	1 971
Sampled (m)	1 081	965	2 046
Channel width (cm)	80	77	78
Average value - gold (g/t)	3.6	3.9	3.8
Average value - gold (cm.g/t)	286	300	293
uranium (g/t)	1 313	1 247	1 283
uranium (cm.g/t)	105.00	98.00	100.88

REMARKS
Capital expenditure
Amounts approved not yet spent - R21 200 000
Commitments in respect of contracts placed - R1 428 000
Dividend
On 1 June 1983 dividend No. 56 of 250 cents per share was declared to members registered on 17 June 1983. Dividend warrants will be posted on 4 August 1983.

Beisa
Capital expenditure
Actual capital expenditure for the quarter amounted to R1.2 million (March 1983 quarter R1.2 million).
Amounts approved not yet spent - R18 203 000
Commitments in respect of contracts placed - R650 000
Agreement between St. Helena and Beisa
No income has accrued to St. Helena to date.

STILFONTEIN Gold Mining Company Limited

Issued capital - 13 082 920 shares of 50 cents each.

Operating results	Quarter ended 30.6.1983	Quarter ended 31.3.1983	6 months ended 30.6.1983
GOLD			
Mined (m ³)	124 001	122 587	246 588
Ore milled (t)	425 000	426 000	851 000
Gold produced (kg)	3 009	3 249	6 258
Yield (g/t)	6.9	7.5	7.2
Working revenue (R/m ³ mined)	104.29	120.56	112.43
Working costs (R/m ³ mined)	70.19	68.31	69.55
Working income (R/m ³ mined)	34.10	52.25	42.88
Gold price received (R/kg)	15 024	16 155	15 621
Gold price received (R/kg)	430	464	447

Financial results (R'000)			
GOLD			
Working revenue	45 386	52 564	97 950
Working costs	30 793	29 782	60 575
Working income	14 593	22 782	37 365
Sundry income - net	1 367	1 855	3 222
Tribute and royalties - net	(2 195)	(2 541)	(4 736)
Income before taxation and State's share of income	13 745	22 096	35 941
Taxation and State's share of income	4 723	13 921	18 644
Income after taxation and State's share of income	9 022	8 175	17 297
Capital expenditure	556	360	916
Dividend declared	18 288	-	18 288

Development			
Stilfontein			
Advanced (m)	8 565	1 998	7 992
Advanced on reef (m)	1 002	568	1 570
Sampled (m)	763	411	1 174
Channel width (cm)	26	37	25
Average value - gold (g/t)	42.5	7.3	50.4
Average value - gold (cm.g/t)	1 003	267	1 276
uranium (g/t)	0.572	0.239	0.875
uranium (cm.g/t)	14.89	8.73	17.08

REMARKS
Capital expenditure
Amounts approved not yet spent - R2 594 000
Commitments in respect of contracts placed - R223 000
Dividend
On 1 June 1983 dividend No. 58 of 140 cents per share was declared to members registered on 17 June 1983. Dividend warrants will be posted on 4 August 1983.

Chemwess Limited

(A subsidiary of Stilfontein Gold Mining Company Limited)
Issued capital - 1 000 shares of R1 each.

Operating results	Quarter ended 30.6.1983	Quarter ended 31.3.1983	6 months ended 30.6.1983
GOLD			
Pulp treated (t)	952 000	910 000	1 862 000
Oxide produced (t)	124.5	121.4	245.9
Yield (g/t)	0.14	0.13	0.14

Financial results (R'000)			
GOLD			
Net income	R4 146	R4 331	R8 477
Income appropriated for capital expenditure	69	673	742
Actual capital expenditure	69	107	170
Dividend declared	6 000	-	6 000

REMARKS
Capital expenditure
Amounts approved not yet spent - R579 000
Commitments in respect of contracts placed - Nil
Dividend
A dividend of R6 million was declared on 1 June 1983 payable to shareholders registered on 17 June 1983.

The GROOTVLEI Proprietary Mines Limited

Issued capital - 11 438 816 stock units of 25 cents each.

Operating results	Quarter ended 30.6.1983	Quarter ended 31.3.1983	6 months ended 30.6.1983
GOLD			
Mined (m ³)	118 112	107 344	225 456
Ore milled (t)	481 000	440 000	921 000
Gold produced (kg)	1 854	1 672	3 526
Yield (g/t)	3.9	3.8	3.8
Working revenue (R/m ³ mined)	58.36	62.63	60.56
Working costs (R/m ³ mined)	35.07	35.37	35.21
Working income (R/m ³ mined)	23.29	27.26	25.35
Working income (R/kg)	10.05	10.26	10.61
Gold price received (R/kg)	430	464	448

Financial results (R'000)			
GOLD			
Working revenue	28 045	27 293	55 338
Working costs	18 868	15 561	34 429
Working income	9 177	11 732	20 909
Sundry income - net	(347)	(488)	(835)
Income before taxation and State's share of income	10 980	11 700	22 660
Taxation	4 436	5 432	9 868
Income after taxation and State's share of income	6 544	6 268	12 792
Capital expenditure	3 324	1 822	5 146
Dividend declared	7 435	-	7 435

Development			
Grootvlei			
Advanced (m)	381	1 888	303
Advanced on reef (m)	217	1 386	146
Sampled (m)	217	1 371	143
Channel width (cm)	109	19	77
Average value - gold (g/t)	11.3	26.3	13.5
Average value - gold (cm.g/t)	1 230	499	1 040

MARIEVALE Consolidated Mines Limited

Issued capital - 4 500 000 shares of 25 cents each.

Operating results	Quarter ended 30.6.1983	Quarter ended 31.3.1983	6 months ended 30.6.1983
GOLD			
Mined (m ³)	16 478	14 654	31 132
Ore milled (t)	80 000	81 000	161 000
Gold produced (kg)	297	275	572
Yield (g/t)	3.3	3.4	3.3
Working revenue (R/m ³ mined)	49.88	58.57	53.94
Working costs (R/m ³ mined)	36.72	36.71	36.72
Working income (R/m ³ mined)	13.16	21.86	17.22
Working income (R/kg)	14 979	17 239	15 623
Gold price received (R/kg)	430	464	448

Financial results (R'000)			
GOLD			
Working revenue	4 472	4 752	9 224
Working costs	3 485	2 973	6 458
Working income	987	1 779	2 766
Sundry income - net	(126)	(18)	(144)
Tribute and royalties - net	(18)	(18)	(36)
Income before taxation and State's share of income	961	1 853	2 814
Taxation	605	1 120	1 725
Income after taxation and State's share of income	356	733	1 089
Dividend declared	1 080	-	1 080

Development			
Marieval			
Advanced (m)	1 048	896	1 744
Advanced on reef (m)	614	517	1 131
Sampled (m)	633	606	1 239
Channel width (cm)	87	96	91
Average value - gold (g/t)	5.1	6.5	5.8
Average value - gold (cm.g/t)	444	620	530

LESJIE Gold Mines Limited

Issued capital - 16 000 000 shares of 50 cents each.

Operating results	Quarter ended 30.6.1983	Quarter ended 31.3.1983	6 months ended 30.6.1983
GOLD			
Mined (m ³)	60 703	60 201	120 904
Ore milled (t)	285 000	269 000	554 000
Gold produced (kg)	1 007	926	1 933
Yield (g/t)	3.5	3.6	3.5
Working revenue (R/m ³ mined)	52.53	61.94	56.52
Working costs (R/m ³ mined)	37.78	37.94	37.86
Working income (R/m ³ mined)	14.75	24.00	18.66
Working income (R/kg)	14 812	26 578	15 892
Gold price received (R/kg)	418	464	448

Financial results (R'000)			
GOLD			
Working revenue	14 899	16 662	31 561
Working costs	10 770	10 590	21 360
Working income	4 129	6 072	10 201
Sundry income - net	387	136	523
Tribute and royalties - net	(18)	(18)	(36)
Income before taxation and State's share of income	4 438	6 200	10 688
Taxation and State's share of income	1 714	3 240	4 954
Income after taxation and State's share of income	2 724	2 960	5 734
Capital expenditure	383	230	613
Dividend declared	4 640	-	4 640

Development			
Lesjies			
Advanced (m)	1 685	1 682	3 367
Advanced on reef (m)	567	536	1 103
Sampled (m)	555	618	1 173
Channel width (cm)	14	15	13
Average value - gold (g/t)	28.2	34.1	36.1
Average value - gold (cm.g/t)	395	511	458

REMARKS
Capital expenditure
Amounts approved not yet spent - R1 100 000
Commitments in respect of contracts placed - R219 000
Dividend
A dividend of 20 cents per share was paid on 5 May 1983.

BEATRIX Mines Limited

Share capital - 100 shares of R1 each.
Loan capital advanced to date - R212 951 000.

Operating results	Quarter ended 30.6.1983	Quarter ended 31.3.1983	6 months ended 30.6.1983
GOLD			
Pulp treated (t)	952 000	910 000	1 862 000
Oxide produced (t)	124.5	121.4	245.9
Yield (g/t)	0.14	0.13	0.14

Financial results (R'000)			
GOLD			
Net income	R4 146	R4 331	R8 477
Income appropriated for capital expenditure	69	673	742
Actual capital expenditure	69	107	170
Dividend declared	6 000	-	6 000

REMARKS
Capital expenditure
Amounts approved not yet spent - R579 000
Commitments in respect of contracts placed - Nil
Dividend
A dividend of R6 million was declared on 1 June 1983 payable to shareholders registered on 17 June 1983.

UNISEL Gold Mines Limited

Issued capital - 28 000 000 shares of no par value.

Operating results	Quarter ended 30.6.1983	Quarter ended 31.3.1983	6 months ended 30.6.1983
GOLD			
Mined (m ³)	132 155	131 193	263 348
Ore milled (t)	518 000	518 000	1 036 000
Gold produced (kg)	2 290	2 246	4 536
Yield (g/t)	7.2	7.2	7.2
Working revenue (R/m ³ mined)	104.47	110.75	112.62
Working costs (R/m ³ mined)	40.71	38.61	39.66
Working income (R/m ³ mined)	63.76	72.14	72.96
Working income (R/kg)	15 029	16 489	15 650
Gold price received (R/kg)	431	471	444

Financial results (R'000)			
GOLD			
Working revenue	34 493	37 049	105 013
Working costs	12 945	12 358	25 303
Working income	21 548	24 691	79 710
Sundry income - net	(567)	(1 084)	(2 651)
Income before taxation and State's share of income	21 522	23 919	77 059
Taxation and State's share of income	13 746	14 421	28 167
Income after taxation and State's share of income	7 776	9 498	48 892
Capital expenditure	386	623	1 009
Loan repayments	-	-	6 713
Dividend declared	14 000	-	14 000

REMARKS

Capital expenditure

Amounts approved not yet spent - R1 472 000

Commitments in respect of contracts placed - R40 000

Dividend

A dividend of 50 cents per share was paid on 5 May 1983.

Share capital

Ordinary shares

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90% of Arbuthnot sold for £9.5m

By Victor Felstead

Stewart Wrightson, the insurance group, is to buy 90.1 per cent of Arbuthnot Insurance Services from Dow Scandia Holdings and a West German company.

The acquisition values Wrightson's stake in Arbuthnot at about £9.5m. Its main business is reinsurance broking.

The basic cash offer is being financed by the issue of 3.17 million new ordinary shares of £1.50 each, worth £4.75m, which have been underwritten at 22.5p per share and placed with institutions. The balance is covered by a cash payment of £4.75m.

S. G. Warburg, the largest shareholder in Wrightson, supports the acquisition and has agreed to purchase 29.9 per cent of the shares placed through the underwriting.

Wrightson is also offering to buy the 9.9 per cent balance of Arbuthnot and Arbuthnot shareholders will have the opportunity to take all the price in ordinary shares which may result in a minor variation in the number of shares to be issued.

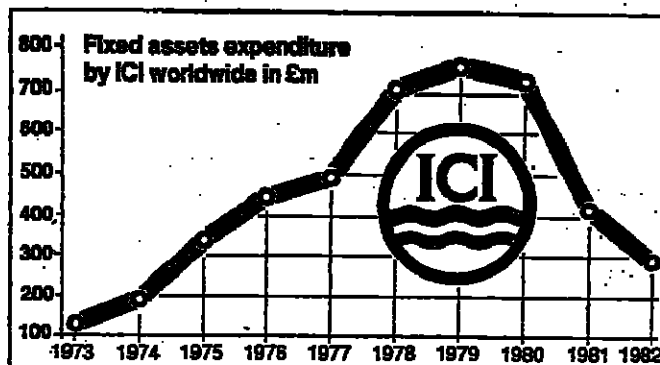
Last year, Arbuthnot made pretax profits of £1.93m. In the present year pretax profits of £1.52m for the first six months, in which larger part of the year's profit is earned, is broadly comparable with the result for the similar period last year.

Nicholson Stewart Wrightson will continue as Wrightson's specialist aviation reinsurance broking company. But the board intends to combine the business of Stewart Wrightson (Reinsurance Brokers) with that of Golding Collins, Arbuthnot's subsidiary. The enlarged company will trade as Golding Stewart Wrightson.

Lasmo

In a report on London and Scottish Marine Oil yesterday, it was incorrectly stated that new preference shares would be redeemed in 1986. The correct year is 1996.

ICI prepares for spending spree



After the Mayfair cash mountain comes the Millbank molehill. ICI's £29m surplus on the flow of funds is not in GEC's league - but things have been changing fast. Under Mr John Harvey Jones, ICI is becoming a different animal.

What ICI does with its growing surplus is an intriguing question. The desire to buy is firmly declared. American majors, which it would like, are all judged to be over-priced, and the bulk chemicals business is best left alone.

So it has been forced back on what are known as the "small and usefuls" - three of which it picked up last year in its biggest spending spree for 10 years. ICI spent £94m in nine months, having also bought half-shares in two associate companies.

Large chemical groups are moving into the speciality because returns are higher. The new group which ICI announced this week will reap pretax profits of 10 to 14 per cent, against 2 to 3 per cent in the traditional bulk processing business.

Spotting candidates for bids is almost impossible. It involves collecting all the brochures showing what the majors already sell, and then finding out who has got something worth adding to a salesman's sample case. Access to fresh markets is another draw.

ICI bought Lonza, a Swiss-German company, because it broadened its product portfolio in special grades of PVC compounds and resins. It purchased Holden because it extended its can-coatings business in West Germany into France and Britain.

The new Speciality Chemicals group will generate half its growth through company and product acquisitions - to boost

annual sales from £150m today to £500m in six years.

Product takeovers are important because development costs are nudging those of drugs. Only companies with large research budgets and a worldwide sales network can fully capitalize on a new idea within its patent lifetime. ICI took Fusillade, an agrochemicals product, from Japan five years ago to become a US best-seller this year.

Signs of other movements in the "small is profitable" direction come from Shell's proposed takeover of Croda's synthetic chemicals operations, for about £16m. Laporte's purchase of the MIT electronics chemicals business from Huntley is another.

There are advantages for buyer and bought. Smaller companies need the resources their bigger brothers can provide. Competition means that the minnows may start having price-tags hung on them, but against that speciality does not require massive capital spending. ICI's new group directors have factories worth only £30m to £50m.

A recent plunge in capital spending on fixed assets is one

of the main reasons why ICI is now so liquid. That trend will undoubtedly continue, with authorization for spending on new plant standing at 10-year low of £246m, against £804m in 1977.

But real spur to acquisitions is the surge in profits. They are widely predicted to double to £500m pretax this year, which would yield £150m post-tax. ICI's status as a multinational may depend on the new strategy continuing to pay as handsomely.

British Land

The British Land Company Year to 31.3.83
Pretax profit £7.7m (6.3m)
Stated earnings 6.7p (5.9p)
Net asset value 165p (164p)
Net total dividend 1.25p (10.5p)
Share price 86p, down 6p
Yield 6.8%
Dividend payable 4.10.83

The City is wary of the property sector and any upsets are likely to see the institutions voting with their feet.

Therefore, yesterday's virtually unchanged net asset value from British Land against expectations of an increase from 164p to 180p sent the price down 6p to 86p - and the reduction was from real sales not just as a result of jobbers marking their prices down.

The second problem was the sudden switch in the dividend policy. British Land has projected itself as a capital growth stock for many years, although, not always with justification. But it has now doubled the dividend.

With a yield of 0.8 per cent the shares are hardly an income stock and the dividend move is unlikely to cut much ice with institutions which are in property for capital growth.

The small increase in the net asset value from 164p to 165p is both conservative and curious. The board decided to reduce a surplus on valuation thrown by the group's own values by about £10m after the directors took a view on its industrial properties and some fringe offices.

But the asset values do not take into account the underlying value of an investment in Growth Realty, a US property company, which could be worth

£12m or British Land's industrial interests which could be worth £12m to £15m if they were ever floated off.

The improvement in profits is good, but includes securities dealing profits worth £2.7m, against £70,000. The industrial interests' contribution was up from £2m to £2.2m, with some help from CQC, a company which makes webbing and ponchos for the British Army.

With resources of £100m in cash and gilts, British Land could be poised to build up an investment portfolio - 30 companies from Classic Cinemas to Dorothy Perkins have passed through its hands over the years by taking more strategic stakes.

It is uncertain, however, whether the existing industrial interests will be floated off - with a low tax charge British Land at present obtains the income gross which makes a separate quote less attractive.

British Land believes that property has had a good run for 30 years, but will slow smartly although not disastrously.

There were red faces at merchant bankers Hill Samuel yesterday when it was discovered somebody had done their sums wrong. Instead of total acceptance for Beecham's recent £197m rights issue amounting to 92.3 per cent, it now appears the figure should have been only 89.3 per cent.

Unfortunately the mistake could prove costly for Hill Samuel which agreed to underwrite the issue. It has now had to take up an extra 2m shares, worth around £7m, among the institutions. But it's good news for Beecham's brokers, Wood Mackenzie and Cazenove which will enjoy the extra commission for placing the shares.

Rush for Metal Sciences sale

By Michael Clark

The offer for sale of 10.8m shares in Metal Sciences, the shot blasting gritmaker, at 11p a share has been an overwhelming success. Investors ploughed more than £128m into the issue.

Brokers Statham Duff Stoop, which brought the shares to the USM along with London Venture Capital, said yesterday that the issue had been 108 times oversubscribed.

Applications for between 1,000 and 15,000 will be balloted for 1,000 shares; 16,000 to 75,000 balloted for 15,000; 76,000 to 150,000 for 2,000 shares; 151,000 to 300,000 for 2,500; 301,000 to 999,000 for 10,000 shares; and 1m and over balloted for 25,000 shares. Statham hopes to announce the results of the ballot on Monday.

Meanwhile, the offer for subscription of 2m shares in Neighbourhood Stores at 210p a share received applications for 3.8m shares. Greig Middleton, the brokers will allocate applications of up to 5,000 shares with 1,000 shares, while more than 5,500 shares will receive about 20 per cent

Clyde sells subsidiary

Clyde Petroleum yesterday announced disposal of its remaining South American trading activities through sale of its subsidiary Class International to South American investors for \$4.5m (£2.96m) of that, \$500,000 has been paid on completion and the balance is payable not later than April 1988. Assets involved were carried in Clyde's books at about £2.5m at the end of last year.

Under the contract, Clyde will also transfer to the purchaser 50 per cent of its interest in the net cash flow from the City oil concession in Ecuador.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9 1/2 %
Barclays	9 1/2 %
BCCI	9 1/2 %
Consolidated Crds	9 1/2 %
C. Hoare & Co	9 1/2 %
Lloyds Bank	9 1/2 %
Midland Bank	9 1/2 %
Nat Westminster	9 1/2 %
TSB	9 1/2 %
Williams & Glyn's	9 1/2 %

* 7 day deposits on basis of tender 10.00.00, 5% £10.00.00 up to £25.00.00, 7% £25.00.00 and over, 8%.

NOTICE TO ENTITLED ACCOUNT HOLDERS OF SEARS OVERSEAS FINANCE NV.

10 1/2% Guaranteed Notes due August 1, 1991

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Temporary Global Note and the Fiscal Agency Agreement dated as of February 1, 1983, the Final Instalment equal to 50% of the Issue Price of each Note (the "Final Instalment") is due and payable on or after August 1, 1991. The Final Instalment shall be accepted unless accompanied by a further payment representing interest accrued on the amount of such payment at a rate of 15% per annum calculated from and including August 1, 1983 to but excluding the date of actual payment on the basis of a 360 day year consisting of 12 months of 30 days each. The issuer in its sole and absolute discretion may elect not to accept the Final Instalment at any time on or after August 1, 1983. Unless notified by the issuer to the contrary, EURO-CLEAR shall have no authority to accept payments on or after August 1, 1983.

SEARS OVERSEAS FINANCE NV.
by Continental Illinois National Bank
and Trust Company of Chicago
Fiscal Agent and Paying Agent

The Fleming Universal Investment Trust plc

The company is a general investment trust. The objective is to maintain for shareholders an investment portfolio well diversified both as to territory and industry.

Results for Year to 31st March	1983	1982	%change
Total Assets	£63.2m	£47.8m	+32.4
Net Asset Value per Ordinary Share	284.3p	213.2p	+33.3
FT Actuaries All-Share Index	411.94	326.59	+26.1
Net Revenue	£1.48m	£1.34m	+10.3
Dividend per Ordinary Share	6.75p	6.00p	+12.5

"A significant increase in overseas investment has been made without any appreciable impairment in growth of revenue."

D. M. C. Donald, CHAIRMAN

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Robert Fleming Services Limited, P & O Building, 2nd Floor, 122 Leadenhall Street, London EC3V 4QR.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CONCERNING General Electric Credit International N.V.

9 1/4% Guaranteed Notes Due 1991

Interested persons are hereby reminded that payment of the second and final instalment of the purchase price of the above-mentioned 9 1/4% Guaranteed Notes Due 1991 (the "Notes") of General Electric Credit International N.V. ("International"), such instalment being an amount equal to 80% of the principal amount, may be made on August 1, 1983 by persons shown in the records of either Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, as Operator of the Euro-clear System, or Cedei S.A., as being entitled to such Notes.

Payment of such final instalment should be made to the London office of The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association) at the address noted below. No payment made after August 1, 1983 shall be accepted unless accompanied by a further payment representing interest accrued at the rate of 14 1/4% per annum on the amount of such payment calculated from and including August 1, 1983 to but excluding the date of actual payment on the basis of a 360 day year consisting of 12 months of 30 days each.

No person is under any obligation to pay or cause to be paid the final instalment of the issue price.

Persons entitled to the Notes upon payment of the final instalment are reminded that on August 1, 1983 International shall cease to have an obligation to accept payment of such final instalment, and in the event of a failure to make payment of the final instalment in respect of any Note on or before August 15, 1983, International will be entitled to retain the first instalment of the issue price previously paid for such Note and will have no obligation to repay such instalment or to pay interest thereon for any period prior to, including or subsequent to August 1, 1983.

Inquiries concerning payment of the final instalment on the Notes should be directed to either of the offices of The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association) set forth below:

(For inquiries but not for payment)
The Chase Manhattan Bank
(National Association)
Corporate Trust Administration
1 New York Plaza
New York, New York 10081
U.S.A.
Mr. Frank E. Davis, Jr.
(212) 676-4083

(For inquiries and for payment)
The Chase Manhattan Bank
(National Association)
Woolgate House
Coleman Street
London EC2P 2HD
England
Attention: Corporate Trust Dept.
(01) 726-6242/(01) 726-5468
Telex No. 854681 CMB G

General Electric Credit International N.V.

Dated: July 7, 1983

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by Michael Clark 

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, July 18. Dealings end, July 29. Contango Day, Aug 1. Settlement Day, Aug 2.

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, July 18. Dealings end, July 29. Contango Day, Aug 1. Settlement Day, Aug 2.

Leading equities again enjoyed another firm session with Allied-Lyons up 3p at 141p. BTR 7p to 534p, Boots 3p to 290p, while continued bid speculation added another 5p to Bowater at 243p.

Gills scored gains of up to £½ and the Government Broker was able to supply some of the new tablet Exchequer 10½ per cent 1997, £250m of which was offered on Friday.

Dealers estimate that an imminent rise in US interest rates is fully justified and appears to have already been discounted.

The pound also had a good day on the foreign exchange, closing 0.6 cents higher at \$1.5243.

Full-year figures are expected from BET later today – the first

since its minority bid for **Rediffusion** this year. Yesterday the shares jumped to 12p to 245p. The figures are normally released in September, but have been brought forward leading to speculation that they should make good reading.

The announcement this week of a joint cable television venture between GEC and General Instruments of the US has received differing reactions on both sides of the Atlantic. While GEC has risen 3p to 216p this week General Instruments has tumbled \$4.40 to \$43.75. Shearson American Express the influential US brokers have already downgraded earnings over the next two years by almost \$1 a

Another firm market this week has been Marley, the tile group, up another 1p to 69½p - for a rise of 5p on the week. Once again the dividend date has been brought forward to August 3, leading to talk that

some good news may be on the way.

Renewed bid speculation was good for an 11p rise on Bassett Foods, the liqueur all sorts group at a new high of 92p. One leading broker has just issued "buy" circular and seems prepared to chase the shares high. Close followers of the shares reckon Bassett could be taken over before the end of the year.

Bellair Cosmetics shows few signs of running out of steam, adding another 7p to 540p, after 553p. The shares have risen 120p so far this week, and optimistic dealers estimate they are likely to double over the next three months.

Once again, enthusiasm for the shares stems from the Turkish connexion. As in the case of Polly Peck, which rebounded from less than 8p to over £35½ in less than three years, Bellair is now controlled by two Turkish businessmen. Mr Mehmet Tecimer and Mr

Yalcin Ackay of Wasson Establishment paid 7p a share for Fenton Hill's 75 per cent stake in Bellair as recently as April. Investors hope that Bellair will be used for a massive injection of assets which will be used to transform

Expect details next week of a placing on the Unlisted Securities Market of shares in Aaronite, the passive fire protection group specializing in North Sea oil platforms. Merchants Pankers, Lazard Bros and brokers Rowe & Pimman will be placing about 100,000 shares at a price of about £500,000. In the past five years pre-tax profits have trebled to £455,000 on a turnover of £6.5m.

the group from its present plight. Last year the group reported pretax profits of £13,000 after several years of losses.

company, had bought 795,000 shares, or 7.2 per cent of the equity. The only other big shareholder in the company is ITC Pension Trust with 9 per cent of the shares.

Atlanta, Baltimore and Chicago Regional Investment Trust has bought a further 60,000 shares in the British Industrial and General Investment Trust, taking its total holding to 367,500 shares or 7.6 per cent. ABC is offering 3.25 of its shares for every 2 Bright shares, valuing the deal at 240p a share.

Yesterday, shares of Bright held steady at 233, with still no clues to the identity of the third party, it is in talks with.

There has been a big institutional buyer of shares in Jackson Exploration, the oil exploration group, which ended the day 4p higher at 85p, after 88p. However, the shares are still well short of the year's high of 300p.

On the unlisted Securities Market, shares of Micro Focus, the microcomputer software group, surged another 55p to 585p. Since last week's interim figures showing pretax profits against the usual loss, the shares have risen over 150p.

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By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Wilson leads

Professional circus 'could'

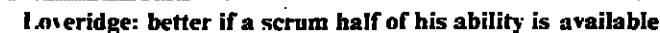
Professional circus ‘could start within six weeks’

The International Board have issued a statement reiterating a warning to players not to become involved in any form of professional circus, David Hands writes. The board emergency committee, meeting recently in London, was told by Sir Nicholas Shekadeh, president of Australian Rugby Union, have indicated that the amateur authorities take the threat of a circus seriously.

The statement says the IB believe a professional tournament could be launched within the next six weeks. The committee has warned that circus would remove over 200 players from the world's leading rugby countries, at a cost which has been estimated at £10 million. Any player accepting professional status would be outlawed from established rugby union circles.

The committee have also confirmed the 'amateur' status of

The statement says the IB believe a professional tournament could be launched within the next six weeks. If it comes into being, the circus would remove over 200 players from the world's leading rugby countries, at a cost which has been estimated at £20 million. Any player accepting professional terms would be outlawed from established rugby union circles.



It would be neither possible nor desirable to try to impose a common playing policy on the four home countries every three years, but there seems no reason why the Lions should not select the best of the major contributors in Lion selection. One of them is likely to be the Lions' coach anyway and all of them should know the capabilities of potential Lions.

d start within six weeks'

Even if Britain can produce more competitive brand of players, can select the right players and the right management, a tour of New Zealand will always remain a difficult assignment. The gap, however, is not as great as the 38-0 defeat at Eden Park suggests. International rugby in the 1980s is 80 per cent organisation and 20 per cent inspiration; if you have David Loveidge at scrum half, so much the better.

Britain is not short of organizational ability; all it needs is the will to use it.

six weeks'

Consortium completes takeover of Southend

In transfer moves yesterday Newcastle United signed the defender, Malcolm Brown, from Huddersfield Town, for £100,000. Tony Hadley, the former Southend defender, joined Colchester United (free transfer) and Mansfield signed the Barnsley winger, Stewart Barraclough, and the former England, Leicester City, Sunderland and Bolton defender, Steve Whitworth, both on free transfers.

Tottenham Hotspur are "fairly optimistic" that Glenn Hoddle will ignore offers from several Continental clubs and stay at White Hart Lane for another season. The 31-year-old midfielder is expected to be training yesterday.

RUGBY LEAGUE: The British amateur young Lions yesterday beat Northern District 20-12 in New Zealand and go into Sunday's international match against the junior Kiwis with an unbeaten record. Fox, Ennis and Lord each scored a try and Rippon kicked a

TENNIS: Ninety-five per cent of Grand Prix tournaments outside the United States are paying guarantees to top professional players, according to the August issue of *World Tennis* magazine. "Millions of dollars annually are doled out in appearance fees to the top four or five players in the world, and an

Grand Prix rules prohibit payment to influence or guarantee a player's appearance

Faldo can cash in as big names drop out

Sandy Lyle, the defending champion, Severiano Ballesteros, Tony Jacklin, Greg Norman, and Bernhard Langer are not competing for one reason or another. Lyle has taken two weeks off to be at home with his wife, Christine, who gave him a son on Tuesday.

Lawrence Batley, the chairman of Huddersfield based cash-and-carry company, is far from amused by the presence of these players: "I feel that we have been badly let down," he says. In the past, Mr Batley has paid large sums to attract players like Arnold Palmer, Lee Trevino anduzzy Zoeller. The players from the European tour argued that he should not pay appearance money, but concentrate on increasing the overall prize fund.

This Mr Bailey has done, increasing the total from £60,000 in the inaugural year, 1981, to £100,000, but the poor response this year could lead to another change.

The one bonus for the tournament is the appearance of the alfredo following his gallant effort in the open championship at Royal Birkdale. Faldo has elected to miss the Canadian Open next week.

Faldo, who will go to the United States to play in the USPGA championship the following week, but he is concentrating on remaining number one in Europe. "It is something I have to do," he says. "My plan is to make certain of the top spot as early as possible so that I can return to America later in the year."

The first prize of £16,660 provides Faldo with an opportunity to move clear. It would take his winnings in Europe this season to £76,500, at the moment his nearest rival is Ballesteros, who has £40,003.

More golf, once 19

More golf, page 19

Defender now leads in the US trials

The challenge supporters spent five weekend making changes in their boats - all that is, but not the budget Australian boat. Advantage, we've got no money! said Martin, a worker, technician and syndicate member. We've got down. We've got to sinker with what we have. The other Australian boat, Challenge 12,

Defender and Tom Blackaller, his skipper, were awarded a win for Saturday's second race when a jury found that Dennis Conner, skipper of Liberty, had violated a right-of-way ruling before the race began. Liberty today races Corsairs.

Seven foreign yachts from five countries will begin a fresh series of trials today. Australia II, the leader in the challengers' trials,

other American boats, and the other two standings, has a new mast and made other changes.

Phil Crebbin, who shares skipper duties with Lawrie Smith on Victory '83, said that the changes were minor. "Chris Rice, the master of Mazzara, said his camp has been studying the idea of a new rudder configuration but has made no change yet."

The series will consist of 21 races and will continue until August 6. The three boats with the worst records will be eliminated and the four survivors will go into a semi-final round five days later.

ROWING

Still in the melting pot

Still in the melting pot

Great Britain have so far nominated only five entries for the 18 disciplines for the men's heavyweight lightweight and women's world championships in Duisburg (August 27-September 4). As Radtke writes, the selections are "very poor" in the men's heavyweights, with only two men's heavyweight contenders, anchored by Kingston, who "no doubt be strengthened, with the Nottingham and Birmingham clubs and others in contention."

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SWIMMING

Hubble could be in for toil and trouble

The aspirations of the 356 competitors in today's opening events at the national championships in Coventry (sponsored by

Hubble is in for a tough time in all his six events and his long-awaited duel with David Ludwig (Harrow) over the butterfly and

So far this season only 14 swimmers have achieved the "consideration times" for the European championships in Rome at the end of August. Only Jackie Joynt, Peter Dinkley, Glynis Croft, Gaynor Stanley, Caroline Cooper and Adrian Moorhouse have succeeded at B level, which

[illegible]

CRICKET: OVERSEAS PLAYERS HAVE PROMINENT PART IN SECOND ROUND OF NATWEST TROPHY

Surrey doomed by toss of coin

By John Woodcock
Cricket Correspondent

OVER: Warwickshire beat Surrey by five wickets.

Whether Surrey would have beaten Warwickshire in the NatWest yesterday had they won the toss will never be known. Once they had lost it and been put in they were doomed. On a difficult morning for batting they were soon in trouble. Warwickshire, when their turn came to bat, had no such problems. Needing only 139 to win they made them with everything to spare. Warwickshire's victory was a quick revenge for their defeat by Surrey in last year's final.

Although bottom of the Sunday League, Warwickshire have the confidence of much recent championship success. Surrey, even in the best conditions, are short of batting, certainly of batting or real quality. They seem to be short of support as well. Yesterday the public stand was empty. There were only a few people who probably have been a larger crowd at Guildford. What Surrey needed after the start they were given by a warning innings from Lynch, but it was not to be.

The ball moved about a lot for most of the cloudy morning. There was no question of Warwickshire disposing with a second ship. Kallachar caught three of the first five batsmen there. Butcher lost down. Lunch at comfortable height and Knight head high, each one beautifully taken.

At 37 for one, Surrey were holding on, if with some luck. Willis, bowling from round the wicket at the two left handers, Clinton and Smith, had been beating the bat round the wicket. Surrey's second wicket had been thrown away they were always losing. Smith and Clinton had made 24 together. Smith played a brilliant third man. With one run completed, Clinton set off on a second, whereupon Smith, seeing Old's return already on his way, sent him back. There were never, I think, two runs there.

By lunch Surrey were 94 for six after 35 overs. Smith, playing back to Ferreira, had been left before Kallachar had his last two catches and Richards, to his surprise, had been given out caught at the wicket. Ferreira and Lethbridge, at medium pace, were a lot less than they might be expected to be at the end of mid-July. Top scorer for Surrey was Thomas with a busy 37. He was out disappointingly, though, trying to sweep Clifford.

On Sunday an England batsman was run out while carrying his helmet under his arm. Yesterday, when Monkhouse and Thomas were batting together and Clifford was the bowler, the non-striker was to be seen wearing his own helmet and carrying his partner's.

At the start of Warwickshire's innings, what Clarke was bowling, there was only one player for a helmet and that was on the bench. But once Lloyd and Smith had negotiated the opening overs Warwickshire were in no danger. The match ended with Kallachar doing much as he pleased.

SURRY
A R Blucher c Kallachar b Willis 1
G S Clinton run out 20
D J Smith b Ferreira 20
R D Vigney c Kallachar b Ferreira 20
M A Smith c Kallachar b Ferreira 20
C J Richards c Kallachar b Ferreira 12
D J Thomas b Ferreira 7
P Ferreira b Ferreira 7
G Lethbridge b Ferreira 7
P Pocock not out 0
Extras (b 12, w 1, nb 10) 23
Total (48.1 overs) 138
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-37, 3-42, 4-52, 5-58, 6-103, 7-120, 8-120, 9-120, 10-120, 11-120, 12-120, 13-120, 14-120, 15-120, 16-120, 17-120, 18-120, 19-120, 20-120, 21-120, 22-120, 23-120, 24-120, 25-120, 26-120, 27-120, 28-120, 29-120, 30-120, 31-120, 32-120, 33-120, 34-120, 35-120, 36-120, 37-120, 38-120, 39-120, 40-120, 41-120, 42-120, 43-120, 44-120, 45-120, 46-120, 47-120, 48-120, 49-120, 50-120, 51-120, 52-120, 53-120, 54-120, 55-120, 56-120, 57-120, 58-120, 59-120, 60-120, 61-120, 62-120, 63-120, 64-120, 65-120, 66-120, 67-120, 68-120, 69-120, 70-120, 71-120, 72-120, 73-120, 74-120, 75-120, 76-120, 77-120, 78-120, 79-120, 80-120, 81-120, 82-120, 83-120, 84-120, 85-120, 86-120, 87-120, 88-120, 89-120, 90-120, 91-120, 92-120, 93-120, 94-120, 95-120, 96-120, 97-120, 98-120, 99-120, 100-120, 101-120, 102-120, 103-120, 104-120, 105-120, 106-120, 107-120, 108-120, 109-120, 110-120, 111-120, 112-120, 113-120, 114-120, 115-120, 116-120, 117-120, 118-120, 119-120, 120-120, 121-120, 122-120, 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Old's appeal date
Chris Old's appeal against a 12-day suspension and a £1,000 fine following unauthorised newspaper articles, will be heard by the council's appeals committee in London on Monday.

Gower and Davison a delightful double act

Leicestershire, with David Gower and Brian Davison in splendid form, stood at 230 for four, with six overs remaining, in their second round NatWest Trophy fixture against Gloucestershire at Leicester. Gower reached his century in the fifty-fourth over.

Leicester recalled their opener, Balderson, for the tie after he had been dropped recently for slow scoring, and he was soon in action at Leicester close to bat first, in only the second over he was dropped by Shepherd when he edged a ball from Lawrence to second slip.

Butcher scored 12 runs in boundaries before Hignell held a brilliant reflex one-handed catch off Lawrence to give Gloucester their first wicket. Gower began in fluent fashion, with fours off Lawrence and Shepherd.

Gloucester broke through at 62 when Balderson was bowled for 24, but Gower and Davison produced a succession of delightful strokes to raise the 100 by the 28th over and Davison reached his 50 in only 53 minutes with his seventh four.

Gower was not far behind, reaching his half-century with a guided four, his sixth, also off Shepherd.

The pair had added 94 for the third wicket when Leicester reached lunch on a healthy 156 for two with 23 overs remaining.

Davison and Gower completed a century stand in the second over after lunch, and Davison continued to assault the bowling, he was soon bowled by a full toss on 68. Gower began the last ten overs by despatching Balderson over long-on for six and then took two further



Not quite: Woolmer just avoids being run out by David East, the Essex wicketkeeper, from Fletcher's throw.

Kent's spirit rewarded on last ball

By Peter Marson
CHELMSFORD: Kent beat Essex by four runs.

Kent won a thrilling victory yesterday and booked a passage into the quarter-final round of the NatWest Trophy competition when Ellison bowled Pringle with the last ball of the match.

That Pringle should have had to hit a six for Essex to win seemed a bit far-fetched, but he did it. Kent's victory was a well-deserved reward for their tenacity and for their marvellous bowling. Yet Kent's position in the league was not as secure as it seemed. Kent's victory was a well-deserved reward for their tenacity and for their marvellous bowling. Yet Kent's position in the league was not as secure as it seemed.

Salute Kent, though, for their tenacity and for their marvellous bowling. Yet Kent's position in the league was not as secure as it seemed. Kent's victory was a well-deserved reward for their tenacity and for their marvellous bowling. Yet Kent's position in the league was not as secure as it seemed.

On Sunday an England batsman was run out while carrying his helmet under his arm. Yesterday, when Monkhouse and Thomas were batting together and Clifford was the bowler, the non-striker was to be seen wearing his own helmet and carrying his partner's.

At the start of Warwickshire's innings, what Clarke was bowling, there was only one player for a helmet and that was on the bench. But once Lloyd and Smith had negotiated the opening overs Warwickshire were in no danger. The match ended with Kallachar doing much as he pleased.

SURRY
A R Blucher c Kallachar b Willis 1
G S Clinton run out 20
D J Smith b Ferreira 20
R D Vigney c Kallachar b Ferreira 20
M A Smith c Kallachar b Ferreira 20
C J Richards c Kallachar b Ferreira 12
D J Thomas b Ferreira 7
P Ferreira b Ferreira 7
G Lethbridge b Ferreira 7
P Pocock not out 0
Extras (b 12, w 1, nb 10) 23
Total (48.1 overs) 138
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-3, 2-37, 3-42, 4-52, 5-58, 6-103, 7-120, 8-120, 9-120, 10-120, 11-120, 12-120, 13-120, 14-120, 15-120, 16-120, 17-120, 18-120, 19-120, 20-120, 21-120, 22-120, 23-120, 24-120, 25-120, 26-120, 27-120, 28-120, 29-120, 30-120, 31-120, 32-120, 33-120, 34-120, 35-120, 36-120, 37-120, 38-120, 39-120, 40-120, 41-120, 42-120, 43-120, 44-120, 45-120, 46-120, 47-120, 48-120, 49-120, 50-120, 51-120, 52-120, 53-120, 54-120, 55-120, 56-120, 57-120, 58-120, 59-120, 60-120, 61-120, 62-120, 63-120, 64-120, 65-120, 66-120, 67-120, 68-120, 69-120, 70-120, 71-120, 72-120, 73-120, 74-120, 75-120, 76-120, 77-

